CNMI's Got Talent 8: 'Everybody wins' PAGE 3
Torres: Commercial fishing viable in NMI. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 244

www.saipantribune.com | MONDAY DECEMBER 17, 2018 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

'A new era of tourism'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority is developing a new global branding and marketing strategy that aims to launch a new era of tourism in the CNMI.

At the MVA's membership meeting at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall last Friday, MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce also announced that the CNMI's tourism industry has quickly bounced back after Super Ty-

See TOURISM on Page 4

Delegates lose effort to block cockfighting ban

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the efforts of the four of the territories' non-voting delegates, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a version of the farm bill that includes a ban on cockfighting in all U.S. territories.

H.R. 2 passed last week on a 369-47 vote.

See DELEGATES on Page 4





CONGRATULATIONS!
Mili Saiki is engulfed by Saipan International School students who greeted her outside the Horigucgi building in Garapan after her naturalization ceremony last Friday at the U.S District Court.
KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Skymark: 92.6 pct. on-time departure

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» **Donates 3M yen for Yutu recovery**

Skymark Airlines Inc. donated 3 million Japanese yen or about $30,000, while Access, the Marianas Visitors Authority's representative office in Japan, donated 1 million Japanese yen or about $10,000 to the MVA for the CNMI's recovery efforts from Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation.

The Skymark team, led by its executive officer Narutoshi Terada, and Access represen-

See SKYMARK on Page 4

Interior Secretary Zinke resigning, cites 'vicious' attacks

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, MATTHEW BROWN and JONATHAN LEMIRE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, facing federal investigations into his travel, political activity and potential conflicts of interest, will be leaving the administration at year's end, President Donald Trump said Saturday. In his resignation letter, obtained by The Associated Press, Zinke said "vicious and politically motivated attacks"


Zinke

See ZINKE on Page 4

INSIDE



NATION
A 7-year-old child of illegal immigrants dies in the custody of U.S. authorities.

PAGE 15



ASIA
Indian forces exchanging fire with insurgents in Kashmir shot at least seven civilians.

PAGE 16



LIFE & STYLE
Peter Jackson brings to life the Western Front of the first World War.

PAGE 20

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com



Local

'Wildland fire was DFEMS' main challenge'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The main challenge the CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services faced this year were wildland fires.

This was learned during the annual Western Pacific Fire Chiefs Conference last Wednesday at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.


Norita

DFEMS Commissioner Clyde Norita said the department has been "pretty lucky" in that, aside from wildland fires, they have been able to handle pretty much all of the challenges that came DFEMS' way this year.

Norita explained that the CNMI is lucky because the CNMI wildland fire season does not coincide with the international wildland fire season.

A handful of the CNMI's firefighters are usually deployed to the U.S. mainland yearly to assist in the fight against wildland fire.

"Our fire season for wildland fire is different from the international wildland fire. We start in March and end around June and the international wildland fire starts in June and ends about November. …Our wildland fire team is trained by the U.S. Forest Service, so we are trained to handle fires like that," said Norita.

Following Yutu, Norita said the CNMI faced a couple of wildland fires as a result of the mass amount of green debris still littering the island.

According to Norita, one of the most recent wildland fires seen in the CNMI was the brush fire in As Gonno just a week ago. Norita said that the fire was at the As Gonno green debris dumping area and no homes or individuals were injured or were in danger during the incident.

"It was just the green debris. To us, and the company commander who was at the scene, there was no reason to fight this fire. It's isolated, it's not near any neighborhood, and it's green debris so we just let it burn and his decision was right… we shouldn't have to waste water, especially if water is tight," he said.

Another recent fire-related incident seen in the CNMI was the burning of the abandoned Pretty Market building in Garapan over a month ago.

A number of homes were damaged as a result of that fire and, according to Norita, the cause of the fire has yet to be determined.

"Our investigative team is still working on it but we've got witnesses and we've already interviewed them. I want to leave it at that. …Pretty Market, when it burned, the challenge was that the hydrants were not working; there was no water because there was no power to pump the water out…. What we had in place that day was…four tanker trucks filled with water," he said.



CNMI's Got Talent 8: 'Everybody wins'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



ERWIN ENCINARES
8th CNMI's Got Talent emcee Brad Ruszala gathers all the children in attendance for a Christmas storytelling during a brief break at the Garapan Fishing Base.

The 8th Annual CNMI Got Talent competition took an unexpected twist as contestants performed for entertainment without the pressure of competition.

Bridge Capital LLC chief operation officer Tucker Baldwin told *Saipan Tribune* over the weekend that "all of the performers are winners" in the eighth installment of the annual talent competition held Thursday evening at the Garapan Fishing Base.

"[Super] Typhoon Yutu hit just as we were gearing toward the auditions process for this year's show," he said. "We woke and there was a lot of damage all over the place. It was difficult for us to imagine how we would continue to run an auditions process. We had performers struggling to meet their basic needs and we had a lot of infrastructure damage."

According to Baldwin, their supposed performing space at Saipan World Resort was "closed indefinitely" for repairs, prompting them to use the Garapan Fishing Base instead.

"There were just a lot of logistical challenges [since Super Typhoon Yutu], but we thought we needed to do the show and that the show must go on," Baldwin told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the company was especially mindful that the performers also had their own personal challenges as a result of Super Typhoon Yutu.

The performances this year featured 13 groups and individuals, including Bernice Shan Sabino, Glushko's Performing Arts Academy, Donato Santiago, Demalynn Pagarao, Saipan Music, Arts, and Dance Studio, Gio Sagana, The Band Nearby, Nathan Palacios, Lawrence Tubera, Scene X, Karen Lagunay, Neil Fama, and Marianas High School's Rhythm and Harmony.

"…We decided to turn the show into something simpler, turn it into a Christmas show, share the spirit of Christmas with everybody, and share the talent that this community has and get them ready to get into the holiday mood," he said.

Emcee Brad Ruszala led the performances, along with speeches from 2018 Miss Marianas Celine Cabrera and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog, as well as a Christmas story for the younger attendees.

ARMATECH
WIFI System Services and Maintenance
Tel: (670) 234-8895/97 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

Christmas PROMO TILL END OF THE YEAR
INTRODUCING
SOLAR POWER + BATTERY STORAGE
TESLA POWERWALL 2
TOUCH SAFE
FLEXIBLE INSTALLATION
DURABLE DESIGN
ALWAYS CONNECTED
LONG LIFE
$300.00 SIGN-UP BONUS
>ZERO UP-FRONT COST
>ZERO MAINTENANCE COST
>100% FULLY INSURED
>LOCKED IN LOW ENERGY RATES
>GUARANTEED SAVINGS
>PROFESSIONAL INSTALLATION
MICRONESIA CNMI RENEWABLE ENERGY INC.
PARTNERED BY: sunnova
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE MADE EASY!
CALL US TODAY AT 233 4673

EXPRESS FINANCIAL
Your dependable money source
has your HOLIDAY CASH!
Choose any of these 3 convenient options to apply!
1 Call us direct at 670-235-6032 and our friendly local staff will be happy to take your application over the phone.
2 Fill out the attached application and fax to 670-235-6040 and we will call you within a few minutes of receiving the fax.
3 Fill out the attached application, scan and email to cccar6985users@carfinancial.com and a friendly member of our sales team will call you.
EXPRESS FINANCIAL is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs.
Helping you succeed financially is our top priority. In most cases we can get the cash in your hands the same day we receive your application.
QUICK CASH APPLICATION
Primary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ _____
Best Time To Call Best Number To Call
Secondary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ _____
Best Time To Call Best Number To Call
Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code _____
Close a loan this Holiday Season and receive a $15.00 Gift Certificate redeemable at
Customers First TRIPLE J FIVE STAR WHOLESALE FOODS SAIPAN
Customers First TRIPLE J TRUCKLOAD STORE
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero San Jose Village, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670-235-6032 Fax: 670-235-6040

TOURISM

From Page 1

phoon Yutu's devastation.

Not everything is coming up roses, though. Expressing great concern about the closure of Mariana Resort & Spa and the expiring land leases of major hotels, Aldan-Pierce pointed out that, if the CNMI wants its economy to survive, it cannot afford to keep closing hotels.

At the meeting, John Furuya, Skymark Airlines executive, briefly introduced the company as the newest airline that will be flying from Japan to the CNMI.

MVA's Irene Lee, Florence Shi, and Takahashi Ichikura also takled about the numerous programs and plans for Korea, China, and Japan markets, respectively.

Aldan-Pierce said the development of the new global and marketing strategy aims to keep pace with competing Asia-Pacific resort destinations and to reboot the CNMI's destination.

Since announcing the request for proposal for a new global branding and marketing strategy, the MVA has so far received over 100 inquiries from around the world. The deadline to submit proposals is Feb. 19, 2019.

"We will review the proposals received with the intention to forge a new strategy that will launch a new era of tourism for the Marianas," said Aldan-Pierce at the packed meeting.

Rebound

She said the impact of Super Typhoon Yutu was tremendous, resulting in zero tourists for several weeks.

Yet while community recovery will take several more months, she said the MVA is pleased to see the tourism industry is bouncing back more quickly than they originally expected.

She said all flights from China and Hong Kong have returned to their regular schedules with good load factors.

Jeju Air has resumed daytime flights from Seoul with flights from Busan to resume on Dec. 21, 2018. Asiana Airlines will resume flights from Seoul on Dec. 20, 2018.

Aldan-Pierce said several hotels on Saipan and Tinian suffered major damage. One of those hotels, the Pacific Islands Club, is set to re-open on Dec. 21, 2018.

Hotels in central and northern Saipan have been back to normal operations for weeks.

Aldan-Pierce thanks the cooperative effort of the Governor's Office, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. military, the many relief agencies, the community, and all those who have provided help to make the recovery rapid and smooth.

The MVA is now in the process of finalizing arrangements for direct flights from Japan and the planned resumption of charter flights from Taipei in early 2019, Aldan-Pierce said. An official announcement about the Taipei flights is expected next month.

Aldan-Pierce said the MVA has had a representative office in Taiwan for several years now, working on building destination awareness and demand. Yet it's been over 20 years since the CNMI has had direct flights from Taiwan.

"So, we are very pleased with this development, because the Taiwan market looks very promising," she said.

Land leases

Aldan-Pierce said they are very concerned about the closure of Mariana Resort & Spa, which, according to her, resulted in loss of jobs, loss of revenue for the central government, and hotel occupancy tax for MVA's operations and marketing.

She noted the many community contributions the hotel has made such as the use of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool—the only Olympic-size swimming pool in the Marianas—for the youths and adults swimming programs.

She expressed hope for the enactment of Senate Bill 20-35, which, if signed into law by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, would allow other hotels—such as Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and Hyatt Regency Saipan—both of which have expiring land leases in 2021—to negotiate new leases. "Not that they are guaranteed a new lease, but that negotiations are conducted, and that those negotiations begin immediately."

Visitor arrivals

Aldan-Pierce said that visitor arrivals in fiscal year 2018 was 7 percent lower than the year before, at just under 608,000 total visitors, after several years of steady growth.

She said the Marianas was strongly impacted by the cancellation of direct flights from Japan last May.

In addition, she said, after some fierce competition among low-cost carriers from Korea, they saw a stabilization of flights last year.

Aldan-Pierce said the CNMI is looking forward to the start of direct flights from Japan by Skymark Airlines next year.

Aldan-Pierce welcomed the presence of Skymark representatives, who joined the meeting and talked about their company and its successful operations in Japan.

Budget cut

Due to Yutu, the MVA now expects a $1.4 million drop in its budget for fiscal year 2019—about 16 percent less than last fiscal year.

Aldan-Pierce said the budget includes a million dollars allotted to other agencies, including 2 percent or at least $300,000 each for the municipalities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for charter flight promotions, island beautification, and other tourism-related projects.

She said they will also give $50,000 to the Division of Parks and Recreation, which maintains many tourist sites, and another $50,000 to the NMI Museum of History and Culture.

That will leave MVA with about $13.4 million to work with this year.

She said they will continue to monitor hotel occupancy tax and make additional adjustments as the year progresses.

Destination enhancement projects.

Since the MVA's last general membership meeting, it has moved forward or completed a number of destination enhancement projects: the railing repairs and bench construction at I Chen'chon Bird Sanctuary on Rota; the completion of Tinian and Rota signs that are awaiting installation; the request for proposals for improvements at Paseo de Marianas; and the Flower Islands Project.

Aldan-Pierce said the latte stone-shaped flower sculpture at the airport is completed and hanging flower pots on the lamp-posts will be replanted by the Saipan Mayor's Office.

MVA is also planning for a larger flower project at Banzai Cliff.

Honors

Aldan-Pierce cited a list of acknowledgements for the CNMI this year.

The Teteto Beach on Rota was voted as No. 1 Reader's Choice Best Beach at Dive and Travel Awards at the annual Marine Diving Fair in Japan last April.

The CNMI picked up the Pacific Asia Travel Association Gold Award for its Official Marianas Guide Certification Program, a recognition for outstanding education in the industry.

The CNMI was included in the Top 10 semi-guided destinations according to Tuniu, one of the top online travel agencies in China.

Aldan-Pierce said CNMI emerged as the favorite destination of Cantonese, as announced at the 2018 China International Tourism Expo Guangdong, based on a reader survey of *Southern Metropolis Daily*, an influential newspaper in southern China.

She said CNMI also came out as No. 1 most popular Pacific island destination among Chinese tourists, according to Mafengwo, one of China's largest online websites.

ZINKE

From Page 1

against him had "created an unfortunate distraction" in fulfilling the agency's mission.

Trump, in tweeting Zinke's departure, said the former Montana congressman "accomplished much during his tenure" and that a replacement would be announced next week. The Cabinet post requires Senate confirmation.

Zinke is leaving weeks before Democrats take control of the House, a shift in power that promises to sharpen the probes into his conduct. His departure comes amid a staff shake-up as Trump heads into his third year in office facing increased legal exposure due to intensifying investigations into his campaign, business, foundation and administration.

Zinke's resignation letter, obtained from a Zinke aide on Saturday, cites what he calls "meritless and false claims" and says that "to some, truth no longer matters."

The letter, dated Saturday, said Zinke's last day would be Jan. 2. It was not clear whether Zinke had already submitted the letter when Trump tweeted.

DELEGATES

From Page 1

While cockfighting is illegal in all 50 states, territories have been allowed to set their own rules on the activity, which involves placing bets on the outcome of fights between roosters with razors strapped to their legs.

Cockfighting is practiced in American Samoa, the CNMI, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Guam governor-elect Lou Leon Guerrero, who takes office Jan. 7, said that cockfighting is an important Guam tradition that must remain legal. She vowed to work to repeal the ban.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) earlier said that the farm bill, if signed into law by President Donald J. Trump, would override local laws that legalizes and regulates cockfighting in the territories like the CNMI and Guam.

"The [non-voting] representatives from Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and I opposed the provision banning animal fighting in the territories. But there was just too much bipartisan support for us to defeat it," said Sablan.

In a previous statement, Sablan believes that banning cockfighting should be a local issue for territories and not the U.S. Congress. "If [CNMI] officials decide to ban cockfighting in the Marianas, I would have no problem with that."

"But I have an issue with the Congress enacting legislation overriding a Commonwealth law without input from [CNMI] citizens and officials."

Sablan added that the CNMI Legislature could have acted on House Bill 20-24 introduced by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) that would prohibit cruelty to animals while providing penalties for such acts.

"Perhaps, if the Commonwealth Legislature had acted on Mr. Propst's bill months ago or last year, we could have used it to help defeat the ban on animal fighting. But now it is much too late to have any effect," Sablan said.

Bordallo, on the other hand, said it was not reasonable that territories were not given consent or their voice heard regarding the imposition of a federal ban on cockfighting.

"Each of my colleagues from the territories and I strongly opposed the provision because it ignored the will of our constituents and

established local laws in our jurisdictions," said Bordallo in a separate statement.

"We worked diligently to try and defeat this provision, including successfully defeating the provision in the Senate bill and offering to work with the House sponsor in order to find a mutual agreement. However, our offers were not reciprocated."

Leon Guerrero said: "Cockfighting has historical significance on Guam and continues to be a regulated practice today. Despite our community's collective efforts in expressing clear opposition to such a ban at the highest levels of government, we were once again ignored."

Annie Harvilicz, president of the Animal Wellness Foundation, has called staged animal fights "disgraceful and barbaric."

"It is insulting for apologists of dog fighting and cockfighting to claim there is a cultural right to conduct these activities," she said in May.

If the law is changed, those who sponsor or exhibit birds in a cockfight face a fine and a maximum prison term of five years. Attending a cockfight would be punishable by a fine and up to one year in prison. Bringing a child younger than 16 to a cockfight would be punishable by a fine and up to three years in prison. ***(With AP)***

SKYMARK

From Page 1

tatives handed the donations to MVA board members and its officials and staff at the MVA general membership meeting at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Hibiscus Hall last Friday.

The CNMI government and Skymark recently signed a co-promotional agreement that would open direct flights between Japan and Saipan.

Skymark is Japan's third largest carrier and the first low-cost carrier in Japan. It is also the only carrier that offers domestic flights based at Haneda International Airport in Ota, Tokyo.

Terada later said in an interview their company is very pleased with their "mission" in the CNMI.

"We're thrilled, excited but also a little bit nervous," said Terada, through Skymark's assistant general manager John Furuya, who acted as interpreter.

Terada said that, by working with the CNMI, they feel that they can help the Commonwealth's economy.

Terada believes Saipan will be an attractive place for Japanese tourists where they can enjoy and relax with their family.

Terada said Saipan is good for Japanese tourists, especially during long weekends because it is only a few hours of travel away, with many activities to enjoy and relax such as water sports and even casino gambling.

Terada said they will be doing charter flights first, but will later be offering regular daily operations.

MVA managing director Christopher Concepcion said they are very happy that the Skymark team joined MVA's general membership meeting, that the audience at the meeting and the people of the CNMI are excited to see the Japanese market return.

Concepcion said they are also very grateful for Skymark's donation. He said Skymark's as well as Access' donation will be given to Karidat Social Services, which will fill the gaps that other big organizations can't fill.

"So, we're working with Karidat right now…to be able to give this donation to them," he said.

He said they're appreciative of these companies' efforts to help the CNMI. "You can see that they…are willing to help the CNMI," said Concepcion.

During the Skymark's presentation about their company, assistant general manager John Furuya said they just celebrated their company's 20th anniversary.

He said they are the fifth largest airline in Japan and currently operates 27 planes and is getting two more in 2019. "Although we are operating just domestic routes, we have 154 flights a day," he said.

Furuya said they have 92.6 percent on-time departure. "This is the best in Japan," said Furuya, drawing applause from the audience at the meeting.

He disclosed, among other things, that their flight cancellation rate is only 0.59 percent.

He said they are operating 21 domestic flights, serving 11 cities in Japan.

Furuya said they are not only planning to operate scheduled flights to Saipan in fiscal year 2019, but also to Palau.

MRE-CNMI STEPS UP

In the wake of the trail of destruction that Super Typhoon Yutu left on Saipan and Tinian, Micronesia Renewable Energy - CNMI recently delivered a container of non-perishable food items, plus pallets of water and other necessities to the Lady Diann Torres Foundation for distribution to those in need. From left, Claudia Flores, Lady Diann Torres Foundation programs coordinator/outreach director; Ben Higgins, solar technician; Edwin Canillo, warehouse manager; Jovelyn Reyes, sales team leader; and RJ Reyes, IT technician/sales advisor.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Torres: Commercial fishing viable in NMI

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres sees commercial—and sustainable—fishing as an industry in the CNMI that could open business opportunities for local fishermen, like the ones being done by the Commonwealth's Pacific island neighbors.

Torres, who just arrived from the weeklong 15th regular session of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission meeting at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu, said that one of the meeting's highlights was an acknowledgement of the importance of the CNMI having a sustainable fishing industry.

The meeting ended last Friday.

One of the topics at the meeting is the effort being done by the United States to increase the catch limit in the Pacific, which is the world's largest fishing ground for tuna. The U.S. is pushing for a quota of 4,600 tons.

"It was a worthy trip and we met with the [WCPFC] leadership. They acknowledged the importance of the CNMI in playing a greater role in [the region's] quota and having a sustainable fishing industry here," Torres told *Saipan Tribune* in yesterday's GOP appreciation party at the Minatchom Atdao pavilion.

"We…would like to experiment in having our own fishing industry here. We look forward to the young generation to take up fishing and strengthen this industry. I hope that this [will be] something that we [can] look forward in providing business opportunities for commercial fishing in our area."

But careful study is needed before jumping right in. "First to consider is the capacity. We really need to do more experimental testing with fisheries. Learn the type of fishing migration that we have here. Whether it is big eye tuna, skipjack, or yellow fin."

"Then put a package for business opportunity for other fishermen to come to our region. Because we have fishing regions like the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Hawaii, Japan, and Chinese-Taipei. It is in our side of the world that we need to have more opportunity for fishing."

Torres emphasized at the meeting the CNMI's aspiration to take advantage of the resources around it in a sustainable and responsible way.

"We have fisheries resources…but lack access to capital needed to institute large-scale fisheries operations. In this regard, the CNMI is interested in how the Commission can assist some members and territories to obtain increased benefits and capacity derived from the tuna fisheries."

He also thanked the leadership of the WCPFC. "On behalf of the people

The CNMI is among the seven participating territories of the 26-member WCPFC, which was established to manage tuna stock in the western and central regions of the Pacific.

PHI Pharmacy
Diabetes Shoppe
Good Neighbor Pharmacy
CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH OUR
Christmas Sale
DECEMBER 10, 2018 TO JANUARY 05, 2019
35% OFF SUPPLEMENTS, VITAMINS & SPORTS NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS
25% OFF ALL OTC ITEMS
50% OFF ON SELECTED ITEMS
Hospital Supplies • Diabetes Products
Two Convenient Locations To Serve You
Navy Hill (CHC)
Tel. (670) 323-5000/01 • Fax (670) 323-5011
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat & Sun:8am-4pm
Dandan (Joeten Dandan Center)
Tel. (670) 235-6170/74 • Fax (670) 235-6180
Mon-Fri: 8am-6pm • Sat: 8am-4pm
Open everyday of the year, providing prescription medication and healthcare essentials to the people of the CNMI for over 22 years.
Visit us on www.facebook.com/phipharmacy
PHI Pharmacy...the pharmacy you can trust!

ATTENTION: 2001 - 2016 HONDA & ACURA OWNERS
Urgent Airbag Safety Recall
HONDA - YOUR SAFETY IS AT RISK - ACURA
You and your passenger's safety may be at risk! Sharp metal fragments from airbag explosions have severely INJURED and KILLED vehicle occupants
FREE AIRBAG REPAIRS

There are safety recalls under way to repair affected Takata Airbags for FREE.
Metal Fragments from airbag explosions have INJURED and KILLED vehicle occupants.
If you have a Honda or Acura vehicle that is within the year range listed above, contact us to see if your vehicle needs this urgent FREE repair.
Thank you from the Honda Family.
For more information on a FREE repair, contact Joeten Motors at (670) 234-5568.
Joeten Motors POWERED BY YOU
CHECK IF YOUR VEHICLE IS AFFECTED visit:
recalls.honda.com
or
recalls.acura.com
QUICK FREE EASY
NHTSA NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION
U.S. Department of Transportation
Airbag deployment with explosion
At Honda we care about your safety.

Tribe Marianas turns 3

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT



BEA CABRERA

Tribe Marianas owners T.J. DLC Manglona and Rob Travilla are focused on chasing the vision of making the Marianas known around the world.

Rob Travilla was going through the 8-to-5 daily work grind when he took the plunge in 2015 to make his dream a reality, leaving behind his federal job to create his own business. That gave birth to Tribe Marianas, which he now co-owns with T.J. DLC Manglona and where he is the creative director.

"I remember my dad telling us that if you really want something, you have to work on it. …That's why I am used to the hustle. …Little did I know that this would be the fuel to having my own business someday," he said.

"Being able to wake up to do what you love doing every single day is a blessing.I don't take it for granted at all because I used to work in a job for 10 years where I clocked in and out every single day and was living from one paycheck to another," he added.

It now seems like fate had a hand in the collaboration between Travilla and Manglona. "I was running a clothing company called 'Salbahe' and .T.J., who was based in California at that time, said he was going to open up a retail store there called 'Tribe Marianas' that would carry local brands from Saipan and Guam."

"Then it hit me like a hammer on the head when I was designing the whole layout for T.J., that it could be bigger than just a retail store. …We can create something that people will think is unique only to the CNMI and the collaboration happened."

In opening Tribe Marianas, they had to overcome many hurdles. "One of the obstacles we had to work on was money as we got denied by every bank on Saipan. Then one day, we stumbled upon the Commonwealth Development Authority's small business program. That gave us a chance."

Travilla said he would never forget the name of Oscar Camacho of CDA "because he was one of the believers. Until the day I die, I will always mention his name because, without him I wouldn't be talking about Tribe Marianas right now."

Then Typhoon Soudelor happened in 2015.

"When Saipan had power back on by the end of October, we had one month to finish the store and finally, we opened the doors on Dec. 12, 2015," he added.

Today, Tribe Marianas provide quality clothing, from T-shirts to accessories. They have stores on Middle Road, DFS Galleria, and DFS at the Saipan airport. They sell online and deliver to all the states in the U.S. mainland.

Tribe Marianas is easily identifiable by its logo: crisscrossing adzes.

"We wanted to carry a symbol that, wherever you are in the world, if you see our logo, people will immediately think you're from the islands. We chose the 'adze' as these were the tools that our ancestors used to carve boats and we have two that symbolize building and protection," he said.

"Every design is well thought of. We try to use personal experiences when we get together to finalize a design for a particular product and we are also blessed to work with great manufacturers. …Our followers since Day 1 know we pride ourselves in quality over quantity so we try to stick to our principles in ensuring that we provide nothing but the best products that are built to last and withstand the elements of the islands," he added

According to Travilla, Tribe Marianas is aware that they need the community. "Without them we wouldn't be here… that's why we also made it a mission to give back."

Tribe Marianas is a supporter of Million Dollar Scholars, Marianas Young Professional, and the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Travilla said his team's passion and faith have propelled Tribe Marianas to go this far." We never doubted our products and we always knew that you can take our product and put it beside a product from a company in California and you wouldn't spot the difference. We pride ourselves with quality over quantity, common vision, dedication, passion commitment and we are so blessed that we have those values instilled in every person in the team."

"That's what a tribe is. … Wherever our products go, it's a little piece of the Marianas…A person who see our products for the first time is going to Google 'Saipan' and he will say, 'I never knew this place existed!' So the ripple effect…will basically point us back to our mission and that is to spread the Marianas worldwide," he added.

SCS' roving ukulele concert

The Saipan Community School's ukulele players have been going around in Susupe, spreading "Christmas cheer" in the form of free ukulele concerts in establishments in their area.

School principal Amanda Dunn brought her 43 middle school students from their campus in Chalan Kanoa to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library last Thursday to play their whole ukulele set, which consists of six songs in total, including two duos.

"We wanted to display the [student's] talents that they have been working on and the skills that they have built. [We also] just want to [spread] the Christmas cheer," Dunn said.

According to Dunn, the school's 6th to 8th grades usually do their Christmas ukulele concert at the Saipan Aging Office in Garapan. However, she noted, the center is currently being used as a shelter for Super Typhoon Yutu victims.

Dunn said they have been able to play some songs at the Kanoa Resort, Saipan World Resort, Pacifica Insurance Undwerwriters Inc., and even Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) office. The group later headed to Joeten Susupe.

"The JKPL is highly appreciative of all its community partners, especially the SCS, a nearby private school," said JKPL technical services librarian Beth Demapan.

She noted that it was the library that invited the school.

"It promotes both music and literacy, so it was one of our missions. I just thank them for coming out here," she said. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: http://opacnmi.com
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL 2018 ELECTION CANDIDATES and POLITICAL PARTIES

According to 1 CMC § 6424, all certified candidates must file a detailed "Campaign Statement of Account". This itemized financial statement, prepared with the advice and co-signature of the candidate's treasurer, must show the specific source(s), name(s) of contributor(s), and amount(s) of contributions and expenses. The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is mandated by the Act to administer the filing of such Statements. Pursuant to the Act, failure to file a complete, signed, dated and verified Statement by January 2, 2019, shall subject you to a fine of up to $100 per day for each date the Statement is late.

The "Campaign Statement of Account form, suggested reports, and supporting schedules are available on Commonwealth Election Commission's website at www.votecnmi.gov.mp. Please note that filing of a "Campaign Statement of Account" form is mandatory.

The Act also requires that the Statement be verified under oath by the candidate/political party and the candidate's/political party's treasurer. Our office will provide free notary service to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. (Proper identification bearing both the photo and signature of the candidate and treasurer must be provided).

Notary Service Schedule:

Saipan: Office of the Public Auditor
Monday through Friday (Except 12/17/18 & 12/19/18)
8:00am to 4:30pm

Rota: Northern Marianas College
Monday, December 17, 2018 – 9:00am to 3:00pm

Tinian: Department of Commerce
Wednesday, December 19, 2018 – 9:00am to 3:00pm

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
e-mail: joshuabergerlawoffice@gmail.com

Notice of Unclaimed Property

The Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger is hereby serving notice to the following individuals and entities that the Law Office is in possession of their property:

Name

153 Dandan Market
Carlito Rivera
Cars Unlimited
Chun Yan He
Communication Specialists
Docomo Pacific
Fei Fei Gao
Garapan Happy Market
Genaro Inting
Holiday Mini Mart
Jenny's Mart
Jessibelle Furagganan
Ming Yang Market
National Collection Services
Nelson Banbao
Pacific Health Inc
Pacific Jewelers
Perfectly Set
Romeo Dolot
Rosalina Quitugua
San Jose Downtown Market
Saipan Computer Services
Saipan Sunzen
T&T Printing
Wang Lanlan
Western Sales

Please file your claim at Email Address: **joshuabergerlawoffice@gmail.com** by identifying yourself as the individual(s) named above, the entity owner, or the entity's authorized representative.

Please advise of your current mailing address and contact information such as email address and/ or telephone / cell phone number

We will also require the following documents:

If you are an individual, please provide 2 picture identifications.

If you are representing an entity, we will need to confirm ownership of the entity or that you are an authorized representative of the entity by providing a copy of a filed annual report, business license, or filed entity tax return. If you are not the owner, please provide an authorization letter / resolution signed by the owner(s). We will also need 2 picture identifications.

DEADLINE for Filing Claim is 10 Jan 2019. The Law Office will cease operations on 15 February 2019. Filing your claim by 10 Jan 2019, will allow for having your claim confirmed and process the return of your property.

My designated representative, Tony Muna, will then contact you for confirmation and arrangements for forwarding your property.

Sincerely,

S. Joshua Berger, Esq.

NMTI launches first class on Rota



From left, Abraham Arriola, Northern Marianas Trades Institute instructor; Velma Palacios, NMTI board secretary/treasurer; Tanya King, Dr. Rita Inos High School principal; Brian Torres, NMTI instructor; Ross Manglona, NMTI director of continuing education; Efraim Atalig, mayor of Rota; Agnes McPhetres, NMTI CEO; and John Gonzales, NMTI board chairman.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute celebrated last Friday, Dec. 14, the successful launch of its first class on the island of Rota.

The "Electrical Level 1" course has been in session since Oct. 29 and has 21 students attending four nights a week for two hours a day. The class is scheduled to be completed by late May 2019 and will segue immediately into "Electrical Level 2."

Agnes McPhetres, NMTI chief executive officer, said Friday, "This is merely the first of many classes that will be offered on island. With the high amount of interest in our first class, it is evident that students like the certificate programs we offer."

Due to the difficulty of finding qualified instructors on Rota, NMTI is looking at the possibility of flying instructors from Saipan to Rota on short stints over the weekends, said Ross Manglona, NMTI's director of Continuing Education.

"While we have our new instructor, Mr. Abraham Arriola, out here, we will maximize his time by offering the prerequisite 'core' course, allowing those students to move on to the other courses like welding, HVAC, plumbing, etc. These classes might require a lot of commitment on behalf of the students, as they may be eight-hour classes just to be cost-effective," Manglona added.

In attendance at Friday's ceremony was Herman Atalig, Rota' elected member to the PSS Board of Education. Atalig was thrilled to hear the news of NMTI's expansion efforts on Rota, saying, "We need to tear down the walls impeding student success to benefit our students. We want to prepare students for meaningful careers and a diverse educational system inclusive of trades education is what is needed to get them there." Atalig said, "I am in full support of NMTI's vision that I support the passage of Senate Bill 20-106 to make NMTI a public entity."

McPhetres said, "This class was made possible through the collaborative efforts of various entities such as the Rota Mayor's Office, Rota Legislative Delegation, [Public School System], and [Northern Marianas College]. Mayor Efraim Atalig initiated this and we just followed through, making the funding request with the delegation and using our new [memorandum of understanding] with PSS. …With NMC graciously allowing us the use of their classroom, we were able to make this pipe dream a reality." ***(PR)***

"A Tradition of Excellence!"

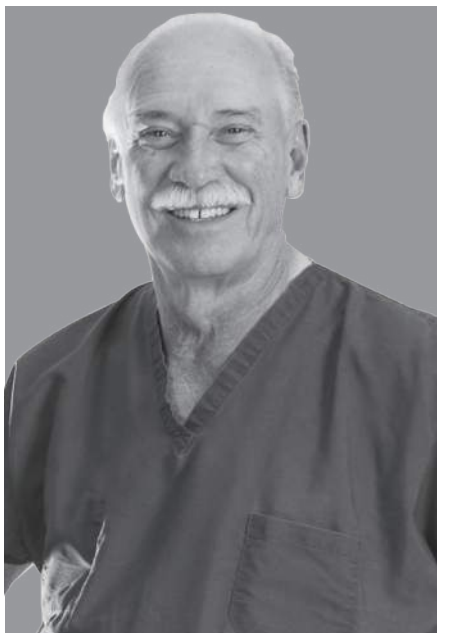
Dr. Dennis Williams, a renowned eye surgeon, continues the tradition of excellence at Marianas Eye Institute.

- Received a CNMI House Resolution, "for conducting the CNMI's first Corneal Transplant"
- Listed in "Best Doctors in America"
- Board Certified Ophthalmologist

Prior Experience:

- Assistant Clinical Professor of Ophthalmology, USF
- Director of Corneal Transplant and Refractive Surgery St. Luke's Cataract and Laser Institute, Florida
- Board of Directors, American Board of Eye Surgery
- President, Cataract Teaching Foundation
- Instructor, American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgery

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!



Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

235-9090
Walk-in's welcome
Beach Road Garapan.

ATTENTION
Government Employees & Retirees!

The Island Smiles Dental Plan now available via your allotment

- **Low Cost:** $5.00 (Individual Plan) $6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or $7.00 (Family Plan) per allotment. Least expensive dental plan in the CNMI
- Members receive at LEAST 20%-50% discounts on all dental procedures. No exceptions!
- **Plan Provider:** Paradise Dental Spa. State-of-the art, full service General and Cosmetic dental clinic. Newest dental clinic and most experienced dentist in the CNMI. Really nice people!



AWARD-WINNING DENTIST
KIND AND GENTLE
DR. NELSON KRUM

Paradise Dental Spa

Hawaii Dental Service, TakeCare & Staywell Insurances also accepted. Medicaid patients welcome!

Call 234-4040
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, across Chong's

Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com

How's Your Hearing?

Specializing in:

- Hearing Evaluations
- Custom fitted hearing aids
- Digital and ProgrammableTechnology
- Custom Communication Devices

- **Wednesday, December 19th 9:00am - 4:00pm**
  at Marianas Medical Center in Garapan



Jennifer Ross, BC-HIS
Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences
Email: rosshearingaids@yahoo.com

BOARD CERTIFIED NATIONAL BOARD FOR CERTIFICATION IN HEARING INSTRUMENT SCIENCES NBC HIS

Ross Hearing Aids

All interested patients should call Marianas Medical Clinic for scheduling

234-3925/7

Most Insurance Accepted

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

NOTICE
MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on ***Wednesday, December 19 2018, 9:30AM*** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of December 03, 2018 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

A. Project: NEW CENTURY HOTEL – The New Century Hotel, LLC is proposing to renovate and convert an existing three-story office building to a forty-eight (48) room hotel operation. The hotel will include 36 parking spaces – 2 ADA compliance parking stalls, 27 guests parking, and 7 for hotel operation use. The building is connected to the CUC power, water, and sewer line. The project site is located in Tanapag Village south of Tanapag Elementary School, east of the Youth Center, and west of Chalan Pale Arnold Road. The size of the property is approximately 1,800 square meters, more or less.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2019-X-001
1) Agencies' Discussion of Application Status
2) Agencies' Permit Conditions
3) CRM Permit Application Final Determination

B. Project: LUCKING HOTEL – The USA Fanter Corp., Ltd. is proposing to construct a four-story hotel building with 39 guest rooms and 28 parking stalls including 1 ADA parking. The first floor will include 28 automated parking with 1 ADA, a small office space, service elevator, water catchment, and a backup generator. The second, third, and fourth floor will each have 13 guest rooms.

CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2019-X-003
1) Agencies' Discussion of Application Status
2) Agencies' Permit Conditions
3) CRM Permit Application Final Determination

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM

Reservist supports emergency typhoon operations on Saipan

By CAPT. JEKU ARCE
U.S. ARMY RESERVE LEGAL COMMAND

GAITHERSBURG, Maryland—Shortly after Super Typhoon Yutu struck the CNMI, Maj. Michael Madsen was called upon to provide legal advice to the federally-coordinated relief effort.

On Oct. 24, the Category 5 hurricane-equivalent storm made landfall on the U.S. territory in the Pacific, leaving destruction in its path. Its 180-mph winds tore off roofs, collapsed houses and tore down power lines. When Yutu passed over the islands of Saipan and Tinian, it knocked out power to more than 50,000 residents. It's one of the strongest storms on record to ever hit the islands.

Initially, National Guard troops from nearby Guam assisted with relief efforts, bringing in food, water, tarps and other supplies, according to the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, who led the mission.

Disasters like this happen fast, said Madsen, a judge advocate with the U.S. Army Reserve Legal Command's 87th Legal Operations Detachment, who mobilized in late October with the Hawaii-based 303rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

"People are suffering. These are usually very high-visibility events that are heavily scrutinized, so decisions need to be made quickly," said Madsen, a native of Parker, Colorado. "It is essential for the legal advisor to help find an alternate solution when the answer is otherwise 'no' and to do so quickly."

On Oct. 26, President Donald Trump declared a major disaster, allowing federal aid to assist the region and bringing federal agency and military personnel support for assessment, response and recovery efforts. The 303rd is part of the 9th Mission Command of Honolulu. The received a request to support from the FEMA Region VIII Defense Coordinating Officer and Defense Coordinating Element on Saipan.

Madsen is no stranger to offering his legal expertise to federal relief efforts. In 2017, he helped provide legal assistance during post-Hurricane Maria operations in Puerto Rico. In 2018, he supported post-Hurricane Florence efforts in South Carolina.

Despite the different locations, his role remains the same: support FEMA.

"The legal advisor needs to help [military] leaders fight the instinct to take [the lead] and to remain within our legal boundaries," said Madsen. "Helping people to remember command relationships and left and right limits is critical, especially with the unique command structure in a DSCA environment, the presence of Title 10 and National Guard personnel and multiple federal agencies.

Madsen, a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law, provided legal assistance to federal authorities, but also took time on Saipan to support U.S. soldiers mobilized from Guam and Hawaii.

"DSCA missions come up very quickly and soldiers don't necessarily have time to get all of their affairs in order before they leave," said Madsen.

Maj. Tanga "T.J." Bernal from the 9th MSC and Capt. Robert Ayres of the 303rd MEB, both U.S. Army Reserve judge advocates, also deployed to Saipan to assist, Madsen said.

The 87th LOD is a subordinate unit of USAR-LC. USAR-LC, located in Gaithersburg, Maryland, exercises mission command and control of trained and ready legal forces across 104 cities in 43 states in the continental U.S., Puerto Rico, and Europe. USAR-LC is a one-star command of over 1,700 soldiers that controls the operations of 28 Legal Operations Detachments providing multi-functional legal support to commanders, soldiers, and family members in support of military operations.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-001

Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work includes replacement of various building elements which were damaged due to the Typhoon Soudelor and also additional work required to strengthen the facility for improving its integrity with a view of withstanding elements of nature. CUC has performed partial work under an ongoing contract with another contractor.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **150 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $150.00 for one RFP package set.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be scheduled on **December 18, 2018 at 10.00 am (ChST)**, at the power plant conference room, followed by a site visit. All attendees are required to arrive with appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). ***The attendance in the conference and site visit is mandatory to ensure that the parties are fully familiar with the existing site conditions.***

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-001 - Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, CNMI"***, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2019**. Late submissions and conditional Proposals will not be considered. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposers are required to complete all Proposal Forms. Proposers may supplement the form as appropriate. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Proposal price must accompany the Proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or Proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total Proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposers. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsive offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 19 , 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager – via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Assistant-via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and waive any imperfection in the Proposal in the best interest of the government. All Proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-002

LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR CUC ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for CUC Administration and Operation, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section (Saipan, Tinian or Rota), by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $20.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-002, Lease of Office Space for CUC Rota Administration & Operation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 7, 2019.** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.
All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, Senior Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

'Marijuana regulation is sensible'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian nominee for the CNMI Cannabis Commission believes that decriminalizing cannabis is a sensible program that the Commonwealth could benefit from once Public Law 20-66 takes full effect next year.

P.L. 20-66 is the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, which legalizes the commercial and medicinal use of marijuana.

Lawrence Duponcheel was nominated by Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas to represent the municipality on the CNMI Cannabis Commission. He awaits confirmation by the the Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation.

"I was born and raised here in the Mariana Islands, and I am deeply passionate about the health and wellbeing of our citizens and the preservation of the culture," Duponcheel, who is the co-founder of pro-cannabis group Sensible CNMI, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Matthew Deleon Guerrero and Nadine Deleon Guerrero were nominated by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres as the Saipan representatives, while Northern Islands Mayor Vicente C. Santos Jr. has chosen Valentino Taisacan Jr. The three await confirmation by the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Thomas Songsong of Rota is the first official member of the CNMI Cannabis Commission after being confirmed Thursday during the Rota Legislative Delegation's session in Sinapalo.

Duponcheel told *Saipan Tribune* that he is convinced that the people of the CNMI are open to change. "I am completely convinced that the people of the CNMI are… ready to commit to shifting from the wasteful and destructive prohibition policy to a more sensible program of regulating and taxing cannabis for adults and those who may benefit from the plants medicinal qualities," said Duponcheel.

He wants the commission to strictly implement the cannabis law to the letter, "to develop a program that is sustainable and functional, in terms of protecting and benefiting our communities."

"I've spent much of the last eight years of my life studying and staying up to speed on the evolution of drug laws in our nation, and internationally, paying close attention to the impacts of these laws over time."

Duponcheel thanked San Nicolas for appointing him to the commission. "With his experience as a former attorney general, the mayor has been acutely aware of the need for sensible criminal justice reforms."

"I am grateful that he has been supportive of the passage of P.L. 20-66 into law and that he has given me the opportunity to serve on the commission, where I will work to ensure that Public Law 20-66 has a beneficial effect on the Tinian community and it's economy."

Chairman M inside casino revives Noodle Bar menu



The Chairman M restaurant within the Imperial Pacific Casino is serving one of the former Noodle Bar dishes, Cantonese Roasted Duck, for just $16. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chairman M restaurant within the Imperial Pacific Casino has revived local favorite Noodle Bar menu—this time available 24 hours.

According to Lucy Guo, Imperial Pacific vice president of hospitality and affairs, they decided to revive the menu to entice local residents to visit the Chairman M restaurant. The kicker is, the menu is now offered 24 hours a day. The Noodle Bar was formerly located inside the DFS T Galleria, where the Best Sunshine casino used to be located.

The menu remains the same, with the top 13 most delicious and affordable dishes from the Noodle Bar restaurant.

Chairman M brought back the Macanese Roasted Pork ($16), the Cantonese Roasted Duck ($16), Shrimp Wonton Soup ($10), Fried Crispy Shrimp ($15), Sweet and Sour Pork ($15), Broccoli with Beef Top Sirloin ($18), Spicy Pot ($18), Stir-Fried Seafood Noodle ($12), Pork and Seafood Grilled Gyoza ($12), Shrimp Spring Roll ($12), Chinese Pancake ($6), Braised Beef Noodle Soup ($12), and the Almond Soya Pudding.



A group of residents indulge in the Chairman M's new menu derived from the former Noodle Bar restaurant. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Chairman M takes pride in offering extraordinary food at low prices ranging from $6 to $18 at most and at such low prices, you can enjoy these mouth-watering dishes prepared by two-time Michelin star chef Chen Haisong.

Haisong said he is dedicated to bringing Michelin star-level dishes and experience to the Saipan community and its tourists.

Guo said that reviving the Noodle Bar menu is about bringing top quality and affordable food and service to the CNMI and its tourists.

Saipan Tribune was able to speak last week to a few who came out to give the Chairman M restaurant a try. According to one, it was his first time to eat at the Chairman M restaurant but he would definitely be returning because of the ambiance and the affordable and delicious dishes.

"We didn't plan to have dinner here…. but we came to check it out….and the food was just right…everything turned out right," he said. "…I would definitely be recommending this place."

Chairman M restaurant is located within the Imperial Pacific casino and is open 24 hours a day. Reservations are encouraged.

To make a reservation, call 237-7817.

YOUR SAFETY IS THE BEST GIFT OF ALL
Happy Holidays!
Greetings from
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
322-7415/322-8733

NOTICE
We are happy to inform our valued customers that
SHIN SEN RESTAURANT
is NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS.
Still located across GIG.
Time of operation: 10:00am - 2:00pm
and 5:00pm - 10:00pm
Call 233-1600

TRIPLE STAR RECYCLING
We buy:
- STAINLESS STEEL
- ALUMINUM CANS
- AIRCON
- SCRAP PARTS
- USED BATTERIES
- ALUMINUM SCRAP
- COPPER
- BRASS
- MOTORS
- TRANSMISSION
- MOTOR OIL PUMP
- CATALYTIC

ACCEPTING TYPHOON TIN ROOFS and ALL KINDS OF METAL SCRAPS
We sell used metal pipes and square bars.
OPENS EVERY MON-SUN @ 8:00AM - 5:30 PM
LOCATED IN LOWER BASE ACROSS CTSI LOGISTICS
CTSI
TRIPLE STAR RECYCLING
SAIPAN ICE
MIDDLE ROAD

SAN XIN HARDWARE
Located at Lowerbase across CTSI Logistics within the vicinity of
Triple Star Recycling
Tel# 285-6134/323-0362
LOWEST PRICE ON ISLAND
NEW ARRIVAL & AVAILABLE FOR SALE
METAL ROOF (BUTLER TYPE-BLUE)
METAL PIPE
C CHANNEL
WELDING ROD

Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 244

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A Grinch-worthy shutdown threat

No one wins when the federal government shuts down, least of all the American people.

Yet President Donald Trump proclaimed this week he would be "proud to shut down the government," with a braggadocio that shows callous disregard for federal workers and the public they serve.

Trump's reason for pushing the nation toward a partial government shutdown is border security. He wants federal spending bills to include $5 billion toward his largely symbolic border wall (the one he has long promised Mexico would pay for).

But should a partial shutdown occur Dec. 22, the employees in charge of securing our borders are among those who would suffer most.

According to a breakdown from Democratic staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, a shutdown would deeply affect the Department of Homeland Security. It would force 54,000 Customs and Border Protection agents and customs officers to work without pay, as well as 41,000 federal law enforcement agents.

Additionally, more than 380,000 federal employees would simply be sent home. These involuntary furloughs would close federal offices that serve farmers, small businesses, and prospective homeowners, while harming delivery of food and other essential items to food banks in the high-demand days leading up to Christmas.

These would be terrible gifts for the president to inflict on the American people.

What's more, a standoff over the president's wall moves the country no closer to the comprehensive immigration reform it so desperately needs.

Partial funding of a border wall will do nothing to speed up processing of asylum-seekers at the border. Nor will it ease the backlog of cases in immigration court.

Despite Trump's claims to the contrary, a nonpartisan Congressional Research Service analysis found that a border fence alone did not significantly deter illegal crossings in San Diego. A major reduction in unauthorized crossings was instead achieved mainly by improving staffing and technological resources there.

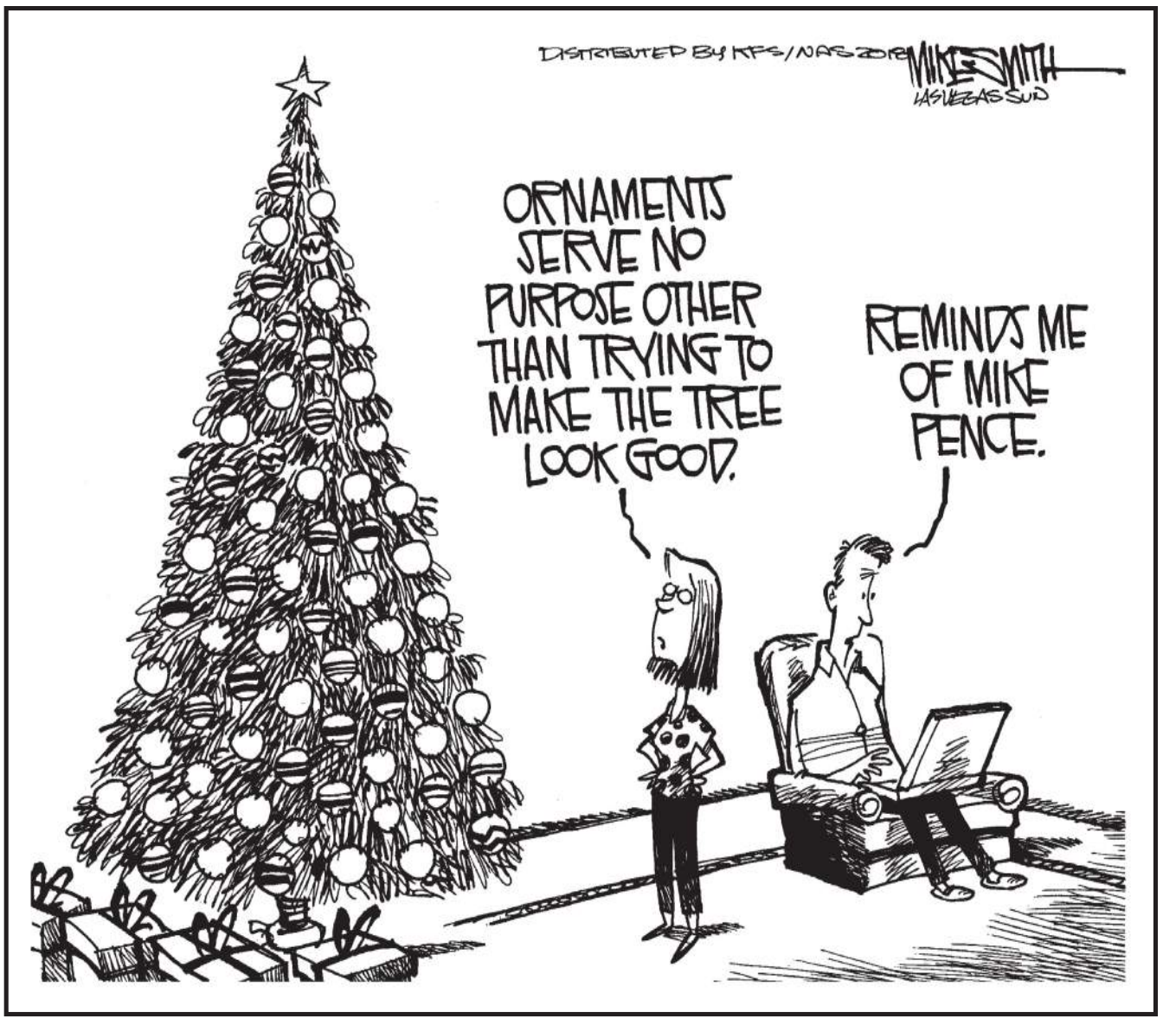
Those are exactly the kinds of effective border security measures that Democrats and Republicans say they're willing to support. And they come with a much smaller price tag.

Members of Congress should show they that they can rise above Washington, D.C.'s, legendary dysfunction this holiday season. They must pass spending measures to keep the government open. If Trump vetoes, the resulting mess will be on him.

Lawmakers should then turn their attention to real immigration reform, rather than a costly barrier that will fail to address our greatest failings at the border.

That would be something to make Americans truly proud.

(c) 2018 *The Seattle Times*



Underestimating Nancy Pelosi

By JULES WITCOVER
Tribune News Service



Jules Witcover's latest book is The American Vice Presidency: From Irrelevance to Power, *published by Smithsonian Books. You can respond to this column at juleswitcover@comcast.net.*

WASHINGTON—President Donald Trump, who has declared the American press "the enemy of the people," invited some of them into the Oval Office Tuesday to witness his meeting with Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Sen. Chuck Schumer, the Democratic congressional leaders. He soon had reason to regret the invitation.

The reporters routinely wrote and said what transpired: a firm if polite rebuke by Pelosi and Schumer of Trump's demands for $5 billion for his border wall, and the president's flat acceptance of responsibility if the result is another government shutdown near year's end.

Before that happened, prospective House Speaker Pelosi offered to save the impulsive president from himself, urging that their meeting exclude the reporters in the interest of candid discussion. "I don't think we should have a debate in front of the press on this," she said.

Pelosi and Schumer both urged Trump to avoid the shutdown. "I think the American people recognize that we must keep government open," Pelosi said, "that a shutdown is not worth anything, and that you should not have a Trump shutdown," seeming to warn him he would own it in the public's mind.

But Trump wouldn't have it. In full bravado, he openly declared his ownership for the press to report. "I am proud to shut down the government for border security," he boasted. "I will take the mantle for it. I will be the one to shut it down. Because the people of this country don't want criminals and people that have lots of problems—and drugs—pouring into this country." He even told Schumer directly, "I won't blame you for it."

Trump's bold proprietorship flies in the face of the history of such actions, going back to the 1995 year-end government shutdown by President Bill Clinton. Then, Clinton refused to accept severe budget cuts forced by then Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich. The abrupt closing of national parks and other public facilities for three weeks caused a citizen uproar, and Gingrich had to retreat.

Pelosi said after Tuesday's Oval Office meeting that one reason she had preferred that the meeting not include the reporters was she had not wanted to have a confrontation with Trump before them "when he was putting forth figures (on immigration) that had no reality to them, no basis in fact. I didn't want to, in front of those people, say, 'You don't know what you're talking about.' " Her reference appeared to be his erroneous claim that "tremendous amounts of (border) wall have already been built."

That did not stop Trump, however, from inferring that Pelosi's efforts to assure her second speakership amid resistance from some young House Democrats were causing her embarrassment. At one point he said he knew that "Nancy's in a situation where it's not easy for her to talk right now."

To which she shot back: "Mr. President, please don't characterize the strength that I bring to this meeting as the leader of the House Democrats, who just won a big victory" in the midterm elections, in which her party picked up a whopping 40 House seats.

All this underscored the political and strategic miscalculation of Trump's decision to throw open to the press what Pelosi and Schumer had expected would be a serious negotiation on issues dividing them, which therefore never occurred. If Trump's intent was to demonstrate to his loyal followers that he remained a stand-up guy on his prime promise to build that wall, while still insisting Mexico would pay for it somehow, it woefully backfired.

If anything, the open-to-the-press meeting probably threw more cold water on the fading House Democratic mini-revolt against the intrepid Nancy Pelosi. A prominent ally, Rep. Eric Stallwell of California, told the Washington Post of her Oval Office performance: "I think it seals the speakership; it has to. You saw in real time what the future looks like for the next two years" with the Democrats in control of the House.

For Donald Trump and the rest of the country, it's not a hopeful prospect for a return to normal governance here as long as he remains in the Oval Office.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Will death of a 7-year-old girl at the border finally put an end to our immigration gulag?

By SCOTT MARTELLE
Los Angeles Times



The death of a 7-year-old Guatemalan girl hours after Border Patrol agents took her and her father into custody is a tragic turn of events that engenders no small amount of finger-pointing and recriminations. Someone must be to blame, but who?

White House spokesman Hogan Gridley told reporters Friday morning that the death was "a horrific, tragic situation. Obviously, our hearts go out to the family and to anyone who's suffered any type of danger and peril that they see so often when they make that trek up from the southern border."

He then turned political: "It's a needless death and it's 100 percent preventable. If we could just come together and pass some common sense laws to disincentivize people from coming up from the border and encourage them to do it the right way, the legal way, then those types of deaths, those types of assaults, those types of rapes, the child smuggling, the human trafficking that would all come to an end. And we hope Democrats join the president."

That's one hyperbolic and reality-challenged way of framing it, and was clearly the talking point of the day for the administration—Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said pretty much the same thing earlier on "Fox and Friends."

The girl died in U.S. custody of dehydration and vomiting, and reportedly didn't receive medical treatment until 90 minutes after her father told agents that the girl was throwing up. When asked if the U.S. bore any responsibility for her death, Gridley responded, "Does the administration take responsibility for a parent taking a child on a trek through Mexico to get to this country? No."

Yet the government does bear responsibility for the health and welfare of people it takes into custody—especially children. And in most cases, it chooses to incarcerate the migrants (federal law requires only that people with specific criminal convictions be detained during deportation proceedings).

It's unconscionable that the government incarcerates children in the first place. And it's unconscionable that the government didn't announce the girl's death for a week. It didn't see fit to inform Congress even though Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee about his agents' role in tear-gassing migrants at Tijuana as he discussed the "border security and humanitarian crisis" along the Southwest border.

Did McAleenan not know of the girl's death in the custody of his agency? Or did he not see that as a sufficient tragedy to be considered part of the humanitarian crisis?

There have long been complaints about the federal system for incarcerating migrants, including issues associated with for-profit prisons, contracts with local jails (where migrants, often not even accused of a crime, are housed with local inmates), and the Tornillo tent city near El Paso where 1,600 children (soon to expand to 3,800) are being held as they await release to guardians—and where facility officials failed to conduct proper background checks on their workers.

It's heartening—at least—to see that the Homeland Security Office of Inspector General has already announced an investigation. If there is to be any silver lining to the tragic death of the girl identified by her government as Jackeline Caal, may it be that our nation's immigration gulag gets stronger, deeper and more effective scrutiny and congressional oversight, and that this administration is forced to accept responsibility for the misery it has caused among people who, by and large, are guilty of nothing more than seeking safety and a better life.

Hosting the Oscars is a thankless gig

By CARLA HALL
Los Angeles Times



How can it be that no one (besides Whoopi Goldberg) wants to host the Oscars?

Are other comics worried that internet users will unearth some cyber trove of homophobic, sexist or racist remarks and stand-up routines in their pasts? Just days after the announcement that Kevin Hart would host, the comic bowed out when years-old homophobic tweets and footage of his onstage ruminations on why he hoped his son wouldn't be gay resurfaced on social media. (As he stepped down, he apologized on Twitter for "my insensitive words from my past.")

Is that why we're in danger of having the new hashtag #OscarsSoHostless?

You would think it's not unreasonable to set the bar for hosting at not being homophobic, racist or sexist. Can no one clear that bar? I didn't even mention tasteless. That would be allowable. Not that the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences would dare to hire that woman with the whiny voice who emceed the White House Correspondents' Dinner last spring and almost made Sarah Huckabee Sanders cry. (Now that would get the evening off to a fun start, watching her eviscerate every A-list star sitting in the audience.)

The academy's board of governors is even considering just having a group of celebrities host the event. Really? Have they erased from their memory banks the grisly Anne Hathaway-James Franco hosting duet of 2011 that was so savagely panned, it arguably set back their careers a couple of years?

The reason no one wants the job is that it's a thankless task _ damned if you're funny and irreverent, damned if you're not. You irritate the celebrities in the audience if you go after them; you irritate the viewers at home if you don't. It's a ton of work, and as two-time host Jimmy Kimmel groused, he got paid only $15,000. (Not that he needs the money. Plus, there's an army of veteran joke-writers working on the show constantly.) Meanwhile, you're hosting a show that is, generally, going down in the ratings _ so you'll be blamed either for its further decline or for not bringing the ratings up more.

But look, it's not like the show is in danger of being canceled. A huge number of people tune in, all fantasizing about their own imaginary Oscar acceptance speech. (Oh, wait _ is that just me?) So the Academy shouldn't punt on picking a host by letting a bunch of actors pretend that all you need to host the show is a really good dress or tux.

So how do you fill an opening that's just about as coveted as the one for White House chief of staff? Maybe by thinking outside Hollywood. Why not offer it to John Kelly? (Hey, it couldn't be any worse than being President Trump's chief of staff.) Or Nikki Haley. (She killed at the Gridiron in D.C. a few years ago.)

Seriously, what about John Mulaney, the comic, actor and voice of the superhero Spider-Ham in the animated "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse"? Talk show host Jimmy Fallon suggested as much when Mulaney was on his show this week. Mulaney is funny, charming and a hit on college campuses _ proof that whiny comedians complaining about college campuses being too sensitive and politically correct are just relying on stock politically incorrect humor.

Or let Whoopi do it if she wants to!

One last note to the academy: Whatever you do, do not pick Cardi B. The Oscars doesn't need any shoe-throwing.

Hitting kids is no way to discipline them

By ANN GUSTAFSON and HOWARD DUBOWITZ
THE BALTIMORE SUN

In a policy statement released last month, the American Academy of Pediatrics aims to end the debate over whether corporal punishment is an acceptable parenting tool.

The verdict? It's not.

"Corporal punishment is associated with increased aggression in preschool and school-aged children," write Drs. Robert D. Sege and Benjamin S. Siegel, coauthors of the statement. Not only that, "experiencing corporal punishment makes it more, not less, likely that children will be defiant and aggressive in the future," they say.

Corporal punishment can affect children's long-term health, too. New evidence from brain imaging suggests that it slows brain development. Other studies have found that harsh punishment causes elevations in the stress hormone cortisol, which may explain poorer overall health associated with corporal punishment.

Hitting is also ineffective in teaching a child responsibility and self-control. It can convey a dangerous message: when someone does something wrong, hit them. In this way, children who are hit are more likely to hit their peers and hit their own children when they become parents.

A recent study showed increases in suicide attempts, moderate-to-heavy drinking and substance use disorder in adults who were spanked as children, effects similar to other adverse childhood events like witnessing domestic violence or having an incarcerated parent.

Despite all this evidence, corporal punishment remains widespread and deeply ingrained in American culture as a deterrent for misbehavior _ "spare the rod, spoil the child." It's worth noting that 54 countries around the world have banned corporal punishment, including Brazil, Kenya and Mongolia. But that may be changing. Surveys show a significant decline in parents who say that hitting is necessary or good for children. This is especially the case among parents 36 years old and younger. There appears to be a generational shift away from spanking.

But abandoning spanking doesn't mean no discipline. The word "discipline" is derived from the Latin "to teach." Discipline is critical for healthy development in childhood. Kids need limits, rules and routines. As children learn to cope with their environment, parents play a critical role of teaching them to navigate this world. But there are better ways to teach children self-control than through hitting.

Responding constructively to children's behavior can be challenging, but a few steps can make a big difference. First, stay calm. Take a step back and breathe a deep breath. This gives you the chance to consider why you are responding this way. To be a good teacher, which is at the heart of parenting, we need to be in touch with ourselves.

Second, try to understand your child's behavior. It is appropriate for children to express emotion, anger or disappointment, perhaps by crying. Parents can talk with their child and support them in calming down. Praise can be extraordinarily effective in curbing bad behavior. Children want their parents' approval, and praise is more powerful than punishment in encouraging good behavior. Catch her being good! And children can be forewarned of the consequences for bad behavior, such as not being able to enjoy a privilege (a favorite TV show for example). Then, the consequences need to be implemented, consistently and promptly, by all those caring for the child.

"We know that children grow and develop better with positive role modeling and by setting healthy limits," says Dr. Sege. "We can do better."

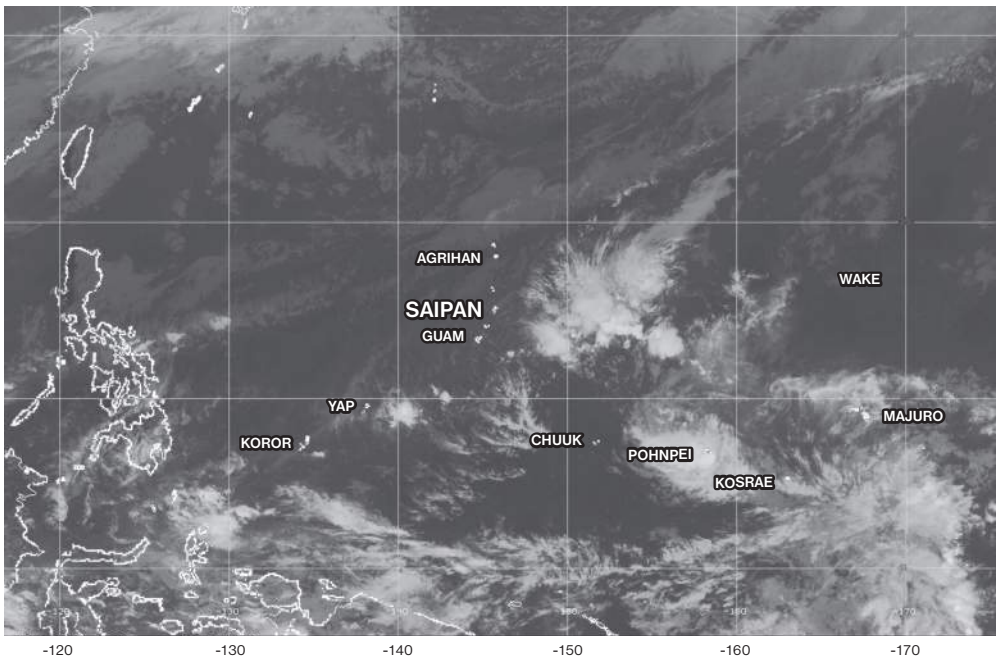
Ann Gustafson is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Dr. Howard Dubowitz is a professor of pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
89° 78°	88° 78°	88° 77°	88° 77°	88° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Have reduced shower coverage to isolated for today, as models show scattered holding off until this evening, and scattered showers now in the Guam/Rota waters should decrease after sunrise. Timing of scattered vs isolated is rather complicated, but best chances for scattered are still tonight, and again Tuesday and Tuesday night. But weather will be unsettled for most of the coming week as the trough drifts through the region, and low-level convergence lingers in its wake after it passes.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Showers	73° / 63°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	45° / 21°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	72° / 66°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	80° / 67°
London	Partly Cloudy	46° / 45°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	65° / 50°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	75° / 61°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	72° / 58°
New York	Cloudy	47° / 34°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	54° / 45°
Paris	Sunny	48° / 39°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	52° / 36°
Rome	Showers	54° / 43°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60° / 38°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 47°
Seoul	Sunny	43° / 25°
Tokyo	Sunny	55° / 39°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	50° / 34°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:37 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.28
8:31 AM	LOW TIDE	0.61
3:17 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.89
10:18 PM	LOW TIDE	0.53

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Tuesday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Wednesday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Thursday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:09 AM	1:32 PM
Tuesday	-	1:58 AM	2:12 PM
Wednesday	-	2:50 AM	2:54 PM
Thursday	-	3:44 AM	3:40 PM
Friday	-	4:42 AM	4:31 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – *temporarily suspended*

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

Temporarily suspended:

TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – *resume from Nov 27*

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – *temporarily suspended*

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily

Temporarily suspended:

TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

GOP Appreciation Party





Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his family lead the GOP appreciation party yesterday at the Minachom Atdao to celebrate their victory during the Nov. 13 election. Torres and his running-mate, Senate President Arnold I. Palacios, won the election as governor and lieutenant governor by a huge margin. Several local GOP lawmakers lost in their respective bids, but still the Republicans kept their majority in the House, winning 13 of the 20 seats.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE











Business

Ruling to strike down health law puts GOP in a quandary

WASHINGTON (AP)—A federal judge's ruling that the Obama health law is unconstitutional has landed like a stink bomb among Republicans, who've seen the politics of health care flip as Americans increasingly value the overhaul's core parts, including protections for pre-existing medical conditions and Medicaid for more low-income people.

While the decision by the Republican-appointed judge in Texas was sweeping, it has little immediate practical impact because the Affordable Care Act remains in place while the legal battle continues, possibly to the Supreme Court.

HealthCare.gov, the government's site for signing up, was taking applications Saturday, the deadline in most states for enrolling for coverage next year, and those benefits will take effect as scheduled Jan. 1. Medicaid expansion will proceed in Virginia, one of the latest states to accept that option. Employers will still be required to cover the young adult children of workers, and Medicare recipients will still get discounted prescription drugs.

But Republicans, still stinging from their loss of the House in the midterm elections, are facing a fresh political quandary after U.S. District Judge Reed O'Connor said the entire 2010 health law was invalid.



AP
This Oct. 23, 2018 file photo shows HealthCare.gov website on a computer screen in New York.

Warnings about the Texas lawsuit were part of the political narrative behind Democrats' electoral gains. Health care was the top issue for about one-fourth of voters in the November election, ahead of immigration and jobs and the economy, according to VoteCast, a nationwide survey for The Associated Press. Those most concerned with health care supported Democrats overwhelmingly.

In his ruling, O'Connor reasoned that the body of the law could not be surgically separated from its now-meaningless requirement for people to have health insurance.

"On the assumption that the Supreme Court upholds, we will get great, great health care for our people," President Donald Trump told reporters during a visit Saturday to Arlington National Cemetery. "We'll have to sit down with the Democrats to do it, but I'm sure they want to do it also."

Economist Gail Wilensky, who oversaw the Medicare program for President George H.W. Bush, said the state attorneys general from GOP strongholds who filed the lawsuit really weren't very considerate of their fellow Republicans.

"The fact that they could cause their fellow Republicans harm did not seem to bother them," said Wilensky, a critic of President Barack Obama's signature domestic achievement.

"The people who raised it are a bunch of guys who don't have serious election issues, mostly from states where saber-rattling against the ACA is fine," she added. "How many elections do you have to get battered before you find another issue?"

Douglas Holtz-Eakin, top policy adviser to Republican John McCain's 2008 presidential campaign, said he was struck by the relative silence from top Republicans after the ruling issued.

A prominent example: "The House was not party to this suit, and we are reviewing the ruling and its impact," said AshLee Strong, spokeswoman for House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis.

Republicans are "going to have to figure out what to do," Holtz-Eakin said. "If it's invalidated by the courts, it's not ... 'We're going to do it our way.' They're going to have to get together with the Democrats in the House."

The GOP's failed effort last year to repeal the law showed there's no consensus within the party itself.

Trump tweeted Friday night that "Congress must pass a STRONG law that provides GREAT healthcare and protects pre-existing conditions."

"Get it done!" he told Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., who is expected to be speaker in January. But Trump had no plan of his own to offer in the 2017 "repeal and replace" debate.

Executive's arrest, security worries stymie Huawei's reach

BEIJING (AP)—While a Huawei executive faces possible U.S. charges over trade with Iran, the Chinese tech giant's ambition to be a leader in next-generation telecoms is colliding with security worries abroad.

Australia and New Zealand have barred Huawei Technologies Ltd. as a supplier for fifth-generation networks. They joined the United States and Taiwan, which limit use of technology from the biggest global supplier of network switching gear. This week, Japan's cybersecurity agency said Huawei and other vendors deemed risky will be off-limits for government purchases.

None has released evidence of wrongdoing by Huawei, which denies it is a risk and has operated a laboratory with Britain's government since 2010 to conduct security examinations of its products. But the accusations, amid rising tension over Chinese technology ambitions and spying, threaten its ability to compete in a sensitive field as carriers prepare to invest billions of dollars.

"This is something that's definitely concerning Huawei at this stage, because there is a political angle to it and a business angle," said Nikhil Bhatra, a senior researcher for IDC.

Huawei is no ordinary electronics supplier. The company founded in 1987 by a former military engineer is China's first global tech brand and a national champion at the head of an industry Beijing is promoting as part of efforts to transform this country into a technology creator. It has China's biggest corporate research-and-development budget at 89.7 billion yuan ($13 billion) in 2017 — 10 percent more than Apple Inc.'s — and foreign customers can draw on a multibillion-dollar line of credit from the official China Development Bank.

That puts Huawei at the heart of strains over the ruling Communist Party's technology aspirations, competition with Western economies and ties between companies and government, including possibly spying.

A European Union official, Andrus Ansip, expressed concern that Chinese rules requiring telecom equipment suppliers to cooperate with intelligence services would involve possible "mandatory backdoors" in computer or telecom systems.

"Do we have to be worried about Huawei and other Chinese companies? Yes, I think we have to be worried," said Ansip, the trade bloc's vice president for a digital single market.

The company says it is employee-owned and operates independently. It denies it designs equipment to allow eavesdropping or that it is controlled by the Communist Party — a stance critics including some U.S. senators say is doubtful in China's state-dominated system. The company notes it uses the same global components suppliers as Western manufacturers.

"Not a single shred of evidence against the company has ever been presented," Huawei said in a written response to questions.

The company is the "most examined telecoms equipment vendor," the statement said. It said foreign officials visit regularly to see "the lengths we go to assure them of the integrity of our technology."

California is first state to mandate zero-emission bus fleet

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California moved Friday to eliminate climate-changing fossil fuels from its fleet of 12,000 transit buses, enacting a first-in-the-nation mandate that will vastly increase the number of electric buses on the road.

The California Air Resources Board voted unanimously to require that all new buses be carbon-free by 2029. Environmental advocates project that the last buses emitting greenhouse gases will be phased out by 2040.

While clean buses cost more than the diesel and natural gas vehicles they will replace, say they have lower maintenance and fuel costs. Supporters hope creating demand for thousands of clean buses will bring down their price and eventually other heavy-duty vehicles like trucks.

California has 153 zero-emission buses on the road now with hundreds more on order. Most of them are electric, though technology also exists for buses powered by hydrogen fuel cells.

"Every state could do a strategy like this," said Adrian Martinez, an attorney for Earthjustice, an environmental legal group that supports the rule. "This is something that California did first because we have major air quality and pollution problems, but this is something other states could pursue."

Existing state and federal subsidies are available to help transit agencies absorb some of the higher costs of carbon-free buses, along with money from the state's settlement with Volkswagen over the German automaker's emission-cheating software.

In approving the mandate, air board members cited both a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality along heavily trafficked transit corridors in smog-polluted cities.

The transportation sector accounts for 40 percent of California's greenhouse gases, and those emissions are rising even as electrical emissions have fallen substantially.

California needs to drastically reduce transportation emissions to meet its aggressive climate change goals.

The California Transit Association, a lobbying group, does not oppose electrifying the fleet but is concerned that zero-emission buses can't match the performance of the existing fleet and that there isn't enough money available for the transition, said Michael Pimentel, who is leading the organization's work on the issue.

"We do want to work alongside the Air Resources Board and our partners at the state and federal level to address these concerns and to ultimately achieve the goal of fully electrified fleets by 2040," Pimentel said.

Nation

Death of 7-year-old on border raises questions

WASHINGTON (AP)—Just 7 years old, Jakelin Amei Rosmery Caal Maquin was picked up by U.S. authorities with her father and other migrants this month in a remote stretch of New Mexico desert. Some seven hours later, she was put on a bus to the nearest Border Patrol station but soon began vomiting. By the end of the two-hour drive, she had stopped breathing.

Jakelin hadn't had anything to eat or drink for days, her father later told U.S. officials.

The death of the Guatemalan girl is the latest demonstration of the desperation of a growing number of Central American families and children showing up at the U.S.-Mexico border, often hoping to claim asylum, and it raises new questions about how well authorities are prepared.

Customs and Border Protection said Friday that the girl initially appeared healthy and that an interview raised no signs of trouble. Authorities said her father spoke in Spanish to Border agents and signed a form indicating she was in good health, though a Guatemalan official said late Friday that the family's native language was a Mayan dialect.

CBP Commissioner Kevin McAleenan said agents "did everything in their power" to save her.

The episode drew immediate questions from members of Congress and others about whether more could have been done. There were only four agents working with a group of 163 migrants, including 50 unaccompanied children, and only one bus to take them to the nearest station 94 miles away. The protocols the agents followed failed to alert them to any signs of distress until it was too late.

"A 7-year-old girl should not be dying of dehydration and shock in Customs and Border Protection custody," Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer tweeted.

The Rev. John L. McCullough, president of Church World Service, said her death was a result of "the administration's immoral war on immigrants." He declared, "People don't walk thousands of miles unless they are desperate for freedom at the end of their journey."

The Homeland Security Department's inspector general opened an investigation, and congressional leaders promised one as well.

The girl and her father, 29-year-old Nery Gilberto Caal Cuz, were arrested with the large group near the Antelope Wells border crossing at about 9:15 p.m. Dec. 6. The rugged, mountainous area is home to ghost towns and abandoned buildings from Old West homesteader days. It's an unforgiving terrain where Geronimo made his last stand and remains largely isolated with no cell service and few unpaved roads. The sparsely used official port of entry is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



AP

Claudia Maquin, 27, shows a photo of her daughter, Jakelin Amei Rosmery Caal Maquin in Raxruha, Guatemala, on Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018.

The group was held at one of 17 "forward operating bases" in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas—spartan facilities built in recent years to increase official U.S. presence in extremely remote areas. Agents live there on weeklong assignments because driving back and forth every day from their stations would consume enormous amounts of time.

Jakelin and her father were held in the facility with food and water but no medical aid.

CBP officials say the drive from Antelope Wells to the nearest Border Patrol station in Lordsburg can take hours.

With the migrants, the agents went over an intake form that reads: "Receiving screening will be performed by professional or paraprofessional personnel trained to recognize the state of conscious, quality of gross motor function, fever or other signs of illness upon arrival at the facility."

Report rips expensive decisions in California wildfire fight

LOS ANGELES (AP)—When a wildfire burned across Big Sur two years ago and threatened hundreds of homes scattered on the scenic hills, thousands of firefighters responded with overwhelming force, attacking flames from the air and ground.

In the first week, the blaze destroyed 57 homes and killed a bulldozer operator, then moved into remote wilderness in the Los Padres National Forest. Yet for nearly three more months the attack barely let up.

The Soberanes Fire burned its way into the record books, costing $262 million as the most expensive wildland firefight in U.S. history in what a new report calls an "extreme example of excessive, unaccountable, budget-busting suppression spending."

The report by Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics, and Ecology criticizes fire managers for not adapting their approach to the changing nature of the blaze. The nonprofit group, which gets funding from the Leonard DiCaprio Foundation and other environmental organizations, advocates ending "warfare on wildfires" by ecologically managing them.

The report suggests the Forest Service response was the result of a "use it or lose it" attitude to spend its entire budget, which had been boosted by $700 million because of a destructive 2015 fire season. The agency managed to spend nearly all its 2016 money in a less-active fire season on about half the amount of land that burned the year before.

"They just kept going crazy on it," report author Timothy Ingalsbee said. "It wasn't demand-driven. It was supply-driven. They had all this extra money Congress had given them, and they had to justify that."

Forest Service officials would not comment directly on the report. After asking The Associated Press to provide written questions, the agency declined to answer them and issued a short statement saying it was committed to reducing costs in similarly large fires.

"Protection of people first and then resources are our primary considerations," the statement said. "Every fire is evaluated to determine the appropriate strategy. We continually look for opportunities to improve outcomes and accountability and to find more cost-efficient and effective methods of managing wildfires."

In addition to burning 206 square miles (534 square kilometers), the smoky fire closed signature parks in the area and put a damper on tourism in Big Sur during the peak season of its only industry. Monterey County estimated a 40 percent loss in revenue for the summer season in the area.

ACROSS THE NATION

Man gets 7 ½ years in machete attack at Kentucky college

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP)—A Cincinnati man charged in a 2017 machete attack on the campus of Kentucky's Transylvania University has been sentenced to 7 ½ years in prison. The Lexington Herald-Leader reports 21-year-old Mitchell William Adkins apologized for his actions when he was sentenced in the Fayette County Circuit Court on Friday. In April 2017, Adkins walked into a coffee shop at the Lexington school armed with a machete and knives. Witnesses said he asked people about their political affiliations; then he attacked. Two victims suffered non-life-threatening injuries. Adkins had a history of complaining about the treatment of conservatives on the college campus. He pleaded guilty in November to assault, terroristic threatening and menacing. Adkins will be eligible for parole after serving 20 percent of his sentence.

2 women in custody in death of 4-month-old boy at NYC hotel

NEW YORK (AP)—A 4-month-old boy died Saturday after he was found unconscious and unresponsive in the lobby of a New York City hotel. Police apprehended two women who were with him, and they're expected to face charges. Police identified the boy as Dominic Greene, of Wilmington, Delaware. He was taken by ambulance from the Hotel Pennsylvania in midtown Manhattan around 1:10 a.m. He was pronounced dead at a hospital a short time later. The women were trying to book a room at the hotel, across the street from Madison Square Garden, police said. A hotel employee noticed that the boy wasn't moving and called 911. The boy had no obvious signs of trauma, police said. The women, acquaintances ages 24 and 26, were practically incoherent when officers arrived, and drugs were found at the scene, police said. Neither woman was the boy's mother. Investigators are looking into whether one was related to him, police said.

Family: Man left woman to die on freeway during first date

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—It started out as a mystery—how did a Fort Lauderdale waitress wind up lying on a suburban freeway before dawn last weekend, getting fatally struck by numerous passing cars? The family of 33-year-old Jennifer St. Clair now thinks they know. In a lawsuit filed Friday, they say St. Clair was on a first date with Miles McChesney of New York when she fell off his borrowed Harley-Davidson motorcycle and he fled. The Florida Highway Patrol has declined comment, saying St. Clair's death is under investigation. McChesney's attorney, Russell Cormican, also declined comment. According to the lawsuit, St. Clair and McChesney, 34, met on the online dating site Tinder and went out Dec. 6 with two other couples for a group motorcycle ride, stopping at three bars. At about 2 a.m. on Dec. 7, the lawsuit says, the motorcycles were on Interstate 95 when St. Clair "was somehow expelled from the motorcycle" and was struck numerous times by passing cars. Witnesses say a motorcyclist stood near St. Clair's body and then took off. The lawsuit says a phone belonging to McChesney's cousin, who was one of the other motorcyclists, called 911 but hung up. "The cousin and the other motorcycle driver had gone ahead. When they noticed that Jennifer was not on the bike, the cousin pulled over and called 911," the family's attorney, Todd Falzone, told a press conference Friday. He said McChesney then approached his cousin, who told the dispatcher, "Here he is, forget it" and hung up.

Asia

Troops kill 7 civilians as protest turns bloody in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Indian forces who were exchanging fire with insurgents in disputed Kashmir on Saturday fatally shot at least seven civilians when large crowds descended on the site of the gunbattle in support of the militants, police and residents said.

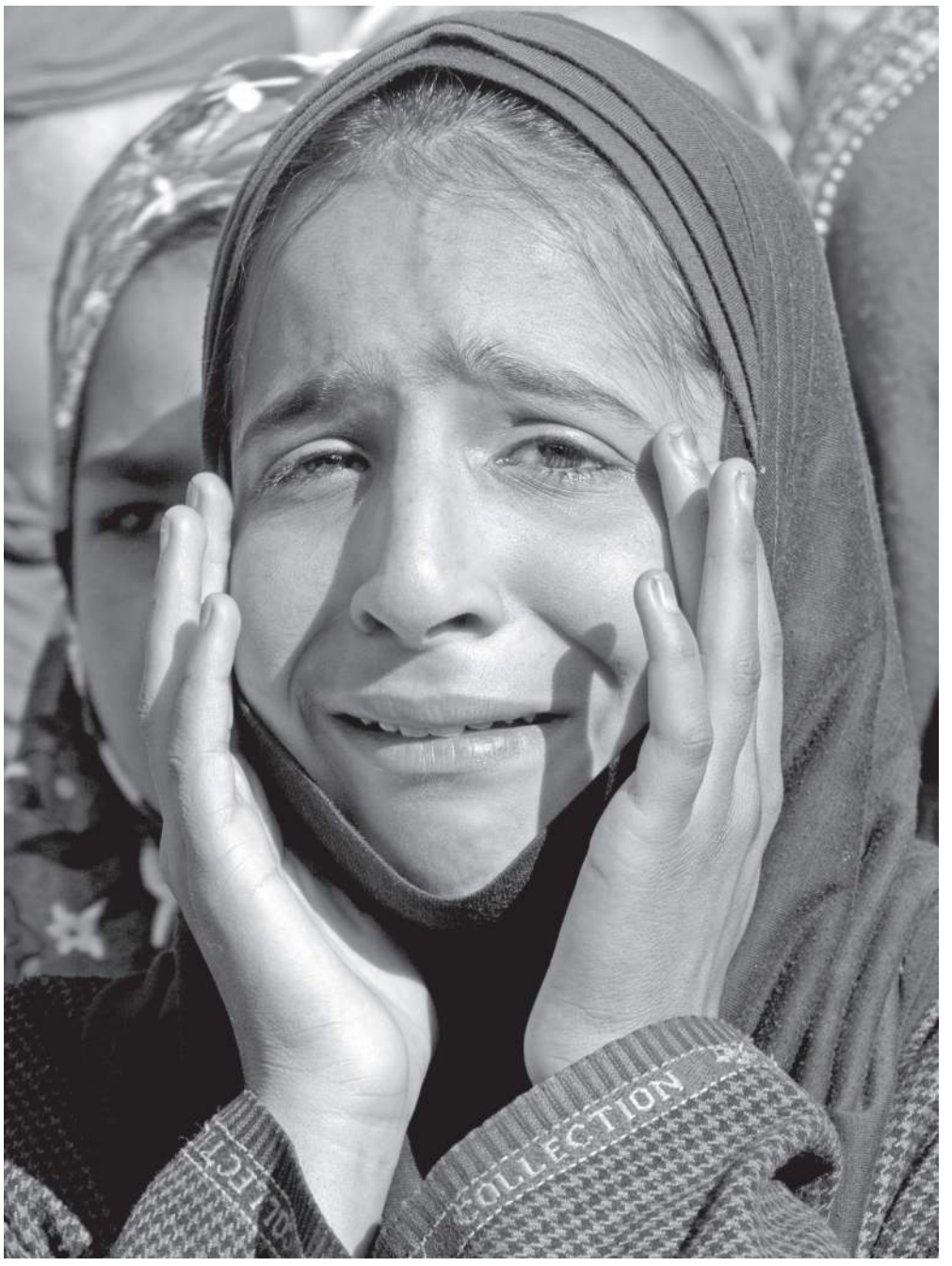
Residents accused troops of directly spraying gunfire into the crowds. Police said in a statement that they regretted the killings but that the protesters had come "dangerously close" to the fighting.

Separatists who challenge India's sovereignty over Kashmir said the killings were part of India's state policy and called for three days of mourning and a general shutdown in Kashmir. Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, a separatist leader, said in a tweet that India's government should "stop this inhumanity as it will not achieve anything except further rebellion and hatred."

The violence started as troops surrounded a village in the southern Pulwama area on a tip that militants were hiding there. Gunmen jumped out of a civilian home and took positions in an apple orchard while firing at soldiers and counterinsurgency police, said Muneer Ahmed Khan, a top police officer.

Three rebels and a soldier were killed and another soldier wounded in the exchange of gunfire, he said.

At the same time, hundreds of people chanting pro-militant slogans and calling for an end to Indian rule over the Himalayan region began throwing stones at troops to help the militants escape. Government forces fired bullets, shotgun pellets and tear gas to stop them, killing seven and injuring at least 40 others, nine of them critically, police said.



AP

A Kashmiri girl grieves as she watches the funeral of Murtaza, a 14 year old boy, in Pulwama, south of Srinagar, Indian controlled Kashmir, Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018.

Khan said large crowds came from multiple directions while attacking security deployments in the area.

Residents said troops fired indiscriminately at the protesters.

"They fired at us as if they were practicing their guns," said Shabir Ahmed, who accompanied some of the injured to a hospital in Srinagar, the region's main city.

Two police officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media, said the civilians died in the anti-India protests. However, residents said at least two civilians, including a teenage boy, were killed away from the gunbattle.

Soldiers in an armored vehicle fired at a small group of civilians away from the battle site, and as the vehicle jammed on a roadside, the troops fatally shot one of them, said Ubaid Ahmed.

Saturday's killings triggered more anti-India protests and clashes at several places in the region, including Srinagar. No one was reported injured in those clashes.

In recent years, mainly young Kashmiris have displayed open solidarity with the rebels and sought to protect them by engaging troops in street clashes during India's counterinsurgency operations despite repeated warnings from the Indian authorities.

India and Pakistan each claim the divided territory of Kashmir in its entirety. Rebels have been fighting Indian control since 1989. Most Kashmiris support the rebel cause that the territory be united either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country.

Philippines: 66 alleged militants convicted in kidnappings

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine court on Friday found 66 alleged members of the Abu Sayyaf guilty of kidnapping dozens of students, teachers and a Catholic priest in the south in 2000, in the largest single conviction involving the brutal Muslim militant group.

The Regional Trial Court branch 261 acquitted for lack of evidence 20 other people who have languished in jail for a number of years while insisting they were innocent in the brazen March 2000 kidnappings of 52 people, mostly young students at two schools on Basilan island.

Two kidnapped teachers were beheaded and a priest died while in Abu Sayyaf custody. The other hostages were rescued or freed after local officials negotiated for their release a few days after they were kidnapped en masse from the schools in the villages of Tumahubong and Sinangkapan.

The Abu Sayyaf—or Bearer of the Sword—has been listed as a terrorist group by the U.S. It was founded around the early 1990s in poor, predominantly Muslim Basilan province. An unwieldy collection of Islamic preachers and outlaws, it vowed to wage jihad, or holy war, but lost its key leaders early in combat, sending it on a violent path of extremism and criminality.

One of its top commanders, Isnilon Hapilon, helped lead a siege of southern Marawi city by Islamic State group-aligned militants in May last year which left more than 1,000 people dead, mostly militants, including Hapilon. Hundreds of thousands of villagers were displaced. Troops backed by U.S. and Australian spy planes quelled the siege after five months.

Today, the Abu Sayyaf has degenerated into a few loose factions with a few hundred ragtag fighters and no central leader in Basilan and outlying islands. But it remains resilient and violent, engaging in ransom kidnappings and extortion that have allowed it to survive without extensive backing from foreign extremist groups.

Senior State Prosecutor Peter Ong said some innocent suspects were arrested but only two were freed by the court a few years ago after he and other prosecutors took steps to secure their release before the trial ended.

"The persistence and determination of the court to give justice to the victims and those who were wrongfully arrested led to this decision, although it took more than one and a half decades to happen," said Ong, one of several prosecutors who handled the case.

Nearly 100 people were charged in the Basilan kidnappings. An Associated Press investigation in 2014 that included interviews with prosecutors and key witnesses showed dozens of people were detained despite a lack of evidence against them.

An Abu Sayyaf commander, Abu Gandhie, who took part in the planning but was captured and later turned state witness, told the AP at the time that more than 40 militants took part in the mass kidnappings, including more than 10 who were later killed in clashes with troops. When he testified in court, he identified only 12 of the dozens of men who were charged as among those who actually took part in the abductions.

Australia recognizes west Jerusalem as Israel's capital

SYDNEY (AP)—Australia has decided to formally recognize west Jerusalem as Israel's capital, but won't move its embassy until there's a peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced Saturday.

Morrison said in a speech that Australia would recognize east Jerusalem as Palestine's capital only after a settlement has been reached on a two-state solution. The Australian Embassy won't be moved from Tel Aviv until such a time, he said.

While the embassy move is delayed, Morrison said his government would establish a defense and trade office in Jerusalem and would also start looking for an appropriate site for the embassy.

"The Australian government has decided that Australia now recognizes west Jerusalem, as the seat of the Knesset and many of the institutions of government, is the capital of Israel," Morrison said.

He said the decision respects both a commitment to a two-state solution and long-standing respect for relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Australia becomes the third country to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, following the U.S. and Guatemala.

Unlike its predecessors, however, Australia recognized only the western part of the city. The move, therefore, is unlikely to please either side entirely.

For the Palestinians, it offers a partial resolution to an issue that they believe should be resolved through negotiations. That decision is softened, though, by recognizing their claim to east Jerusalem.

The Israelis welcome recognition of Jerusalem as their capital, but the Australian decision falls far short of their claim to all of the city. Refusing to include east Jerusalem, home to the city's most important religious sites, is likely to upset Israeli nationalists who dominate Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition.

Israel's foreign ministry commended Australia's move as "a step in the right direction." In a statement, it also praised the Australian government's stance against anti-Semitism and its pro-Israel position at the U.N.

Senior Palestinian official Saeb Erekat slammed Australia's "irresponsible policies" that led to the recognition.

"The policies of this Australian administration have done nothing to advance the two-state solution," Erekat said in a statement, stressing the Palestinian view that the holy city remains a final-status issue in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which have run aground.

Morrison had earlier floated the idea that Australia may follow the contentious U.S. move of relocating its embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, but it was seen by many Australians as a political stunt. Critics called it a cynical attempt to win votes in a by-election in October for a Sydney seat with a high Jewish population.

World

Nations at UN climate talks back universal emissions rules

KATOWICE, Poland (AP)—After two weeks of bruising negotiations, officials from almost 200 countries agreed Saturday on universal, transparent rules that will govern efforts to cut emissions and curb global warming.

The deal agreed upon at U.N. climate talks in Poland enables countries to put into action the principles in the 2015 Paris climate accord.

But to the frustration of environmental activists and some countries who were urging more ambitious climate goals, negotiators delayed decisions on two key issues until next year in an effort to get a deal on them.

"Through this package, you have made a thousand little steps forward together," said Michal Kurtyka, a senior Polish official chairing the talks.

He said while each individual country would likely find some parts of the agreement it didn't like, efforts had been made to balance the interests of all parties.

"We will all have to give in order to gain," he said. "We will all have to be courageous to look into the future and make yet another step for the sake of humanity."

The talks in Poland took place against a backdrop of growing concern among scientists that global warming on Earth is proceeding faster than governments are responding to it. Last month, a study found that global warming will worsen disasters such as the deadly California wildfires and the powerful hurricanes that have hit the United States this year.

And a recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or IPCC, concluded that while it's possible to cap global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century compared to pre-industrial times, this would require a dramatic overhaul of the global economy, including a shift away from fossil fuels.

Alarmed by efforts to include this in the final text of the meeting, the oil-exporting nations of the U.S., Russia, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait blocked an endorsement of the IPCC report mid-way through this month's talks in the Polish city of Katowice. That prompted uproar from vulnerable countries like small island nations and environmental groups.

The final text at the U.N. talks omits a previous reference to specific reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, and merely welcomes the "timely completion" of the IPCC report, not its conclusions.

Last-minute snags forced negotiators in Katowice to go into extra time, after Friday's scheduled end of the conference had passed without a deal.



AP

Pakistani nomad women carry water to their houses in a hazy evening on the outskirts of Islamabad, Pakistan, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2018.

WORLD BRIEFS

US official: 'End days' nearing for Islamic State in Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—Fighting against the Islamic State group in its last enclave in eastern Syria "is going very well," a U.S. official said Saturday as U.S.-backed Syrian fighters battled the extremists on the edge of the largest urban area they still hold. Spokesman for the U.S.-led Coalition Col. Sean Ryan's comments came a day after the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces captured the town of Hajin, the largest urban area controlled by IS in the enclave. Ryan said IS still poses a threat and its fighters are regrouping, planting improvised explosives devices to slow the progress of SDF offensives. He added that the "end days" of IS in the enclave they hold near Iraq's border are getting closer, however, "they still have the capability for coordinated attacks, and the fight is not over." The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war monitor, said SDF fighters are removing explosives in Hajin and fortifying their positions amid fighting on the eastern outskirts of the town.

Ukraine Orthodox leaders approve break with Russian church

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukrainian Orthodox leaders on Saturday approved the creation of a unified church independent of the Moscow Patriarchate and elected a leader to head that new church—a move that could exponentially raise tensions with neighboring Russia. The vote, held at a closed-door synod in Kiev's St. Sophia Cathedral, is the latest in a series of confrontations between Ukraine and authorities in Russia, including President Vladimir Putin's government. Ahead of the vote, the Russian Orthodox Church called on the United Nations, the leaders of Germany and France, the pope and other spiritual leaders to protect Orthodox believers in Ukraine. The leader of the new autocephalous Ukrainian Orthodox Church will be Metropolitan Epiphanius, a 39-year-old bishop from the Kiev Patriarchate. "God heard our appeals and gave us this anticipated unity," Epiphanius told a crowd of thousands who had gathered outside the cathedral on Saturday to hear the news. He stressed that the new church's doors would be open to all, and encouraged Ukrainians to rally behind it.

Egypt announces discovery of 4,400-year-old tomb

SAQQARA, Egypt (AP)—Egypt on Saturday announced the discovery of a private tomb belonging to a senior official from the 5th dynasty of the pharaohs, which ruled roughly 4,400 years ago. Antiquities Minister Khaled al-Anani announced the find at the site of the tomb in Saqqara, just west of Cairo, which is also home to the famed Step Pyramid. He said drawings on the tomb's walls were "exceptionally well-preserved." The drawings depicted the official and his family, he added. The tomb also contained a total of 45 statues carved in rock. Again, they depict the official and his family. In recent years, Egypt has heavily promoted new archaeological finds to international media and diplomats in the hope of attracting more tourists to the country. The vital tourism sector has suffered from the years of political turmoil and violence that followed a 2011 uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Exodus from Venezuela leaves families divided across borders

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—When Emili Espinoza was finally able to make a video call to the 3-year-old son she hadn't seen since fleeing Venezuela, the little boy named Elvis didn't recognize her.

"No," he told her. "My mom is sleeping."

That cold denial sent a shiver of sadness down her spine. She reminded him of the chocolate-covered bananas she used to buy him, hoping to trigger a memory. But his young mind couldn't grasp the recollection.

His mother wasn't the 28-year-old woman with almond-colored eyes staring at him through a cell phone screen, he insisted, but the young lady who happened to be taking care of him that afternoon and was napping a few feet away.

Like thousands of other Venezuelan migrants what the U.N. calls the largest exodus of people in South America's modern history, Espinoza had made an agonizing choice six months ago: To leave without her three children. She did not have the money to bring them and had no idea what trials she might face in Colombia. So she left them with her brother in the hopes of earning enough to feed them and, with time, reunite.

It's a pattern that echoes other migrations throughout the world, from Central America, the Caribbean and Asia: Heads of households are fleeing first, with hopes—sometimes frustrated—that their families can soon join them. The result is a profound alteration of families, with sometimes devastating consequences.

Co-workers at the health foods restaurant in Bogota where Espinoza cleans tables tried to console her, saying the child was simply confused and likely associated the word "mother" with any one of the female neighbors or relatives in Venezuela now helping take care of him.

"He would consider that person his mother and not me," she said, weeping at the memory.

An estimated 2.3 million Venezuelans have fled their nation's hyperinflation, food and medical shortages over the last three years, according to the United Nations. About 1 million have landed in neighboring Colombia after making long treks by bus and foot . In one survey by Colombian officials, 73 percent of the more than 250,000 migrant families questioned said they had left relatives behind in Venezuela.

Another smaller survey by the International Rescue Committee, a humanitarian aid group, found 52 percent of 312 Venezuelans recently arrived in Colombia reported being separated from at least one child they usually live with.

"The rate of family separation and separation of parents from children is just staggering," said Marianne Menjivar, the IRC's Venezuela and Colombia director. "These are people who have multiple layers of trauma and the child separation is one more."

Experts who have studied migrant families say the same factors typically drive the decision to flee without children, regardless of country of origin: Uncertainty about the journey, worries about job prospects in a new country and a belief that the separation will only be temporary. A rise in female migration in recent decades has also led to larger numbers of children separated from their mothers.

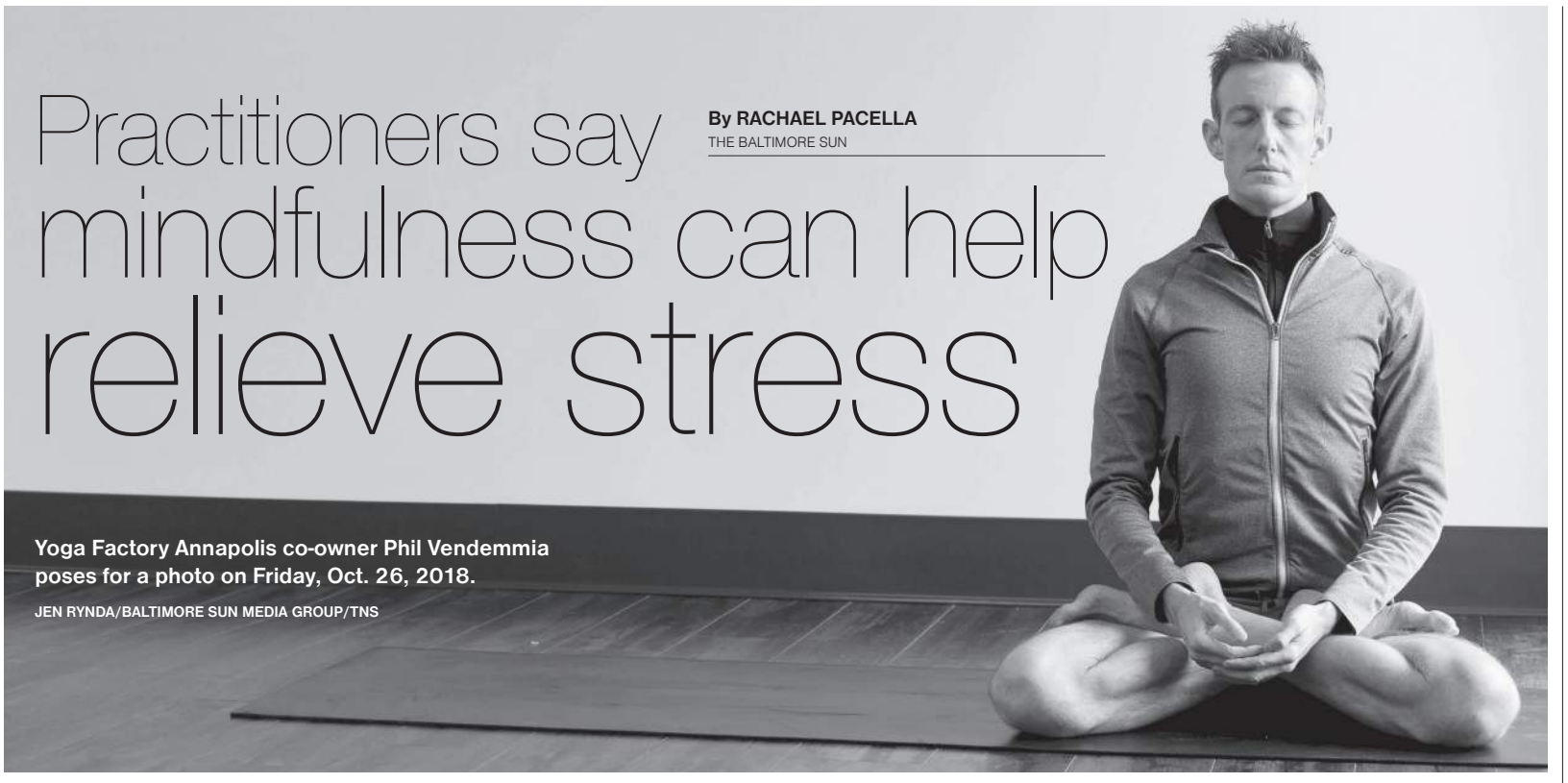
Perhaps nowhere has the issue been more visible than at the U.S.-Mexico border, where families make wrenching decisions over whether to bring children on long treks—often covering hundreds of miles and finally across scorching, isolated deserts. Even families who cross into the U.S. together often find themselves separated, whether by agents at the border or deportation orders issued years or decades later.

Health & Wellness

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Holdings HEALTH IS WEALTH Tan Siu Lin Foundation

Practitioners say mindfulness can help relieve stress

By RACHAEL PACELLA
THE BALTIMORE SUN



Yoga Factory Annapolis co-owner Phil Vendemmia poses for a photo on Friday, Oct. 26, 2018.
JEN RYNDA/BALTIMORE SUN MEDIA GROUP/TNS

Do you know what you're getting your parents for the holidays? Oh, and whose house is the family dinner at this year? And what are you bringing?

The year is over—did you do everything you wanted to, or miss out?

The holidays can be stressful, filled with worries about the future and regrets about the past. But practicing mindfulness—defined simply as being present in the moment rather than thinking of the past or future—can help take your stress level down a notch this holiday season.

The benefits of mindfulness meditation are backed by science—according to the National Institutes of Health, there is moderate evidence that meditation is useful for treating symptoms of anxiety and depression.

"It's relatively difficult to concentrate on nothing," Bowie resident Fran Stetina said at a meeting of the Mindfulness Practice Group of Annapolis, Md.

Stetina has been meditating with the group weekly for the past year. When they gather at the Unitarian Universalist Church Sundays and Thursdays, it's not a class—it's a practice group, which does just that. Practice.

It can be tough to clear one's mind and be present in the moment while meditating, Stetina said. "You start thinking about what projects you want to work on, jobs you have to do at home."

Member Lee Weimer has been meditating for more than a decade, and said this is often the case. The brain is a thinking machine, she said, so thinking isn't the problem. It's letting the thought carry you away.

"You can see that thought and you can let it go on by," she said. You don't have to dwell.

Weimer said bringing your focus back to your body by paying attention to your breath—feeling it go down your throat, feeling your stomach moving—can stop that cycle.

"We use the bodily sensations to bring the mind back from wandering," she said.

When it comes to swirling thoughts, longtime practice group member Phyllis Cullham said she's been there—she has faced a cancer diagnosis.

"Sometimes if you can just break the cycle of pacing and engaging and just sit physically, even if the mind is spinning, that opens the door. And doing that for a few consecutive days works," she said.

Mind and body have to also be together during mindful meditation, she said.

"If you're not an integrated whole person, the mind is never going to be free," she said. "It's always going to be resenting and complaining and quarreling and not settling in the body."

Phil Vendemmia starts each day sitting up in bed and meditating. He sits up straight and keeps the phone off.

> "The idea is that you're taking time to bring your mind into a more centered place instead of letting what might be a bad way of waking up last any longer than it should."

For beginners, he said, using a guided meditation is a good place to start. He suggests listening on iTunes to Siddharth Ashvin Shah, who offers a 21-minute morning resilience and stress prevention meditation. During the guided meditations, a person's voice calmly tells you where to place your focus while meditating — focus on your breathing, focus on your environment, or in more complicated guided meditations, focus on a certain subject like grief.

"Bringing your awareness under greater control is a habit to cultivate everyday," Ashvin Shah says in his guided morning meditation. "Start by using your senses to become aware of your environment."

Sometimes people wake up angry or scared, Vendemmia said. Maybe they had bad dreams.

"The idea is that you're taking time to bring your mind into a more centered place instead of letting what might be a bad way of waking up last any longer than it should," he said.

Bringing your mind to the present and meditating sounds simple, but can be difficult, he said. Don't get frustrated, and remember that everything takes practice.

"If for one minute you were in the moment, that's one minute more than most people do every day," he said.

Though many people exercise while listening to music or watching a TV in the gym, in yoga classes they're expected to focus solely on their body—hand and foot placement, alignment and how it all feels.

"If you're doing that, it allows you to stay in the moment," Vendemmia said.

He said that through yoga he learned to be more patient, which prepared him for fatherhood. He also said people have told him they've used yoga to get through difficult times in their lives.

Evolutions health club program director Pam Blum, who has taught yoga for more than two decades, also stressed the importance of taking some quiet time.

"That's what yoga usually offers people," she said.

They disconnect from the world and look inward. And in a time when people spend a lot of time in cyberspace, taking the time to reconnect with your body is also key.

"Moving your body is a way to reconnect," Blum said. "For people who think with their heads all day long, they need to get into their body."

Blum said that if you're a high-energy person, a slower, more restorative yoga session could benefit you; if you're a low-energy person, take a more rigorous class to energize yourself.

You can come up with a mantra or mission statement to say to yourself to make sure you, and not someone else, are prioritizing your life, she said. Your mantra is who you are and what you stand for. Saying the mantra aloud to yourself will help you follow-through with that intention.

Blum suggested picking a meditation mentor, either in real life or on paper through books by Eckhart Tolle, Wayne Dyer or Paulo Coelho.

"If you're all productive and you're not present, at some point that's going to come crashing down," she said.

According to Mary Kay Connerton, wellness coordinator at Annapolis High School, mindfulness is adaptable to any lifestyle. She uses her own life as an example:

Connerton had a baby in May. Before that, she spent 20 minutes every morning meditating and another 40 doing yoga. After her son was born, she found chances to meditate while walking him in his stroller. She paused to take two minutes to reconnect and focus on her breath.

Connerton suggests that beginners start a mindfulness practice by waking up 15 minutes earlier than usual each morning to mediate or do yoga.

She also suggests using cellphone apps to help mediate, such as Insight Timer, which is available for free on the Apple and iOS stores. Insight Timer tracks the time you spend meditating, she said. It also offers nearly 13,000 guided meditations, music, talks and courses, all free.

"It helps people feel accomplished before they jump in the shower," she said. "You'll start to see that you crave it."

And while she has heard people say they don't have time to meditate, the reality is you make time. Doing so could give you more time, as meditation can increase focus.

"You'll see this shift of being more aware," she said. "When you're more present in each moment, you live every moment of your life."

FITNESS FOR TWO

Couples reap health benefits from shared physical exercise

By PAMELA KNUDSON
GRAND FORKS HERALD

GRAND FORKS, N.D.—Sometimes, a tinge of competition seeps into the physical fitness activities that Lee Rerick and her husband, Randy Syverson, love to do together.

"We might do a little bit of friendly ribbing," she said.

But mostly, mutual support of each other's fitness goals keeps them going, and any competitiveness only spurs a desire to boost personal performance, she said.

The couple regularly work out at Choice Health & Fitness, where they take a variety of classes including spinning and weight-training.

Mutual support is "pretty important" to sticking with their exercise routine, she said.

"If one person doesn't feel like going (to the gym), the other does. We encourage each other."

At 5:30 a.m., she and Syverson start their day at the fitness center, spending two hours in workout sessions before heading to their jobs at Altru Health System in Grand Forks.

"It's a great way to start the day—doing something that feels good and is good for you," Rerick said. "It affects how we socialize and who we socialize with."

The pair enjoys exercising and spending time together, away from the demands of kids and work, she said.

"It keeps us in good enough shape (so) we can do things on vacation, like hiking. We travel well together because we both like to do the same things."

She credits her husband with helping her to maintain a consistent workout schedule.

"Once I take time off, I tend to take a lot of time off," she said. "With Randy (whom she married last year), the lapses have been fewer and shorter."

Rerick, 52, and Syverson, 59, have also become active runners.

"We run to keep our weight in check," she said. "We both like to eat."

Four years ago, they entered their first relay race as part of the Fargo Marathon, she said. That experience "spurred us on to do more things together."

They've competed in relay, 5K and 10K races.

Last fall, they entered the local Uff Da Mud Run, which challenges participants' skills in a series of wall- and rope-climbing, swimming, arm-crawling and other physically demanding tests along a four-mile obstacle course.

This month, they plan to enter their second Fargo Marathon and, this fall, another Uff Da Mud Run in Grand Forks.

Life & Style

Jackson 5, Def Leppard, and Nicks join Rock Hall of Fame

NEW YORK (AP)—Janet Jackson joins her brother Michael and the Jackson 5 as members of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, earning induction on Thursday along with Stevie Nicks and the top fan vote-getter, Def Leppard.

Radiohead, the Cure, Roxy Music and the Zombies will also be ushered in next spring at the 34th induction ceremony. It will be held March 29 at Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

Jackson's induction comes after her third time as nominee and many saw it as overdue, given her prowess as a hitmaker with "All For You," ''That's the Way Love Goes," ''Nasty," ''Together Again" and "What Have You Done For Me Lately."

Her career suffered from the fallout after the infamous 2004 Super Bowl appearance where her bare breast was briefly exposed by Justin Timberlake; both said it was a mistake.

But she's had a resurgence of late including an acclaimed tour, headlining festival stints, multiple lifetime achievement honors and a No. 1 album on the main Billboard chart.

Jackson became eligible for the rock hall in 2007 and wasn't nominated until 2016.

The Roots' Questlove, in a social media post earlier this year, said her exclusion had been "highly criminal." He cited the influence of her 1986 album "Control," which he said set off the New Jack Swing trend.

"This was no one's kid sister," he wrote.

Jackson said on Thursday: "Thank you Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I am truly honored and I am happy to be in there with my brothers."

It will be Nicks' second induction into the rock hall, since she's already there as a member of Fleetwood Mac. She launched a solo career in 1981 with her duet with the late Tom Petty, "Stop Draggin' My Heart Around." Other hits followed, including "Edge of Seventeen," ''Stand Back" and "I Will Run to You."

Def Leppard earned more than half a million votes from fans, which are incorporated into more than 1,000 ballots from artists, historians, industry professionals and past winners in deciding who gets honored. The British heavy metal band with a pop sheen were huge sellers in the 1980s on the back of songs like "Photograph" and "Pour Some Sugar on Me."

Frontman Joe Elliott said he was initially ambivalent toward the honor until Jon Bon Jovi suggested it would change his life.

"When I look at the list of who's in, it's just obvious you'd want to be in that club, isn't it?" he told Billboard earlier this year. "When you think that every band that means anything in the world, starting from the Beatles and the Stones and any artist that influenced them—your Chuck Berrys, your Little Richards, etc., etc.—then of course you want to be in. Why wouldn't you?"

Police visit 'Saturday Night Live' star after Instagram post

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City police were concerned about Pete Davidson after he wrote "I don't want to be on this earth anymore" on Instagram. And they visited the "Saturday Night Live" star to make sure he was OK.

A police spokesman declined to say where officers met with Ariana Grande's ex-fiance on Saturday. But his Instagram posting was deleted and NBC did not cancel its live show.

What alarmed Davidson's fans and authorities was the tone of the entertainer's post: "I'm doing my best to stay here for you but I actually don't know how much longer I can last. All I've ever tried to do was help people. Just remember I told you so." He added a heart emoji.

Social media erupted with words of love for the 25-year-old comedian and native New Yorker who first appeared on "Saturday Night Live" in 2014. And his name is trending on Twitter.

One admirer tweeted "hang in there. There is a lot of help out here. Surrender to some love ... I'm praying for you Pete. I've been there. It gets better."

Earlier this month, Davidson wrote on Instagram that he has spoken about borderline personality disorder from which he says he suffers, "and being suicidal publicly only in the hopes that it will help bring awareness and help kids like myself who don't want to be on this earth.

"No matter how hard the internet or anyone tries to make me kill myself. I won't. I'm upset I even have to say this."

Davidson and Grande were engaged in June, but broke up earlier this fall.

Toni Braxton is in the holiday spirit with Lifetime movie

NEW YORK (AP)—Toni Braxton has been nominated for Grammys again for her latest album, but these days the singer is also focusing on acting—and flexing her producing muscles.

"I find that I really love everything about film and film-making," the multiplatinum-singer said in a recent interview. "I just really love movies, whether TV or anything that's dealing with film."

Braxton, a seven-time Grammy winner nominated for three more Grammys earlier this month for her latest album "Sex & Cigarettes," is currently starring in "Every Day Is Christmas" on Lifetime. Inspired by the Charles Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol," the movie centers around Alexis Taylor, played by Braxton, as she gets the holiday visit of a lifetime. ("Every Day is Christmas" is re-airing on Lifetime on Saturday and on Christmas Day.)

A self-proclaimed workaholic who "humbugs" love, Alexis ends up embracing the spirit of Christmas when her past, present, and future collide, forcing her to risk the one thing money can't buy: her heart.

"I love Christmas movies," she said. "Holiday time makes me feel happy and festive and excited. I got a three-picture deal at Lifetime and I thought a Christmas movie would be the perfect way to come out and introduce it."

But not only is she working hard in front of the camera, she's putting in sweat equity behind it. Braxton serves as an executive producer on the movie. She said she got "a little taste" of executive producing over the years "but now that I've bitten the apple, I want the whole thing."

Braxton's first film role was in 2001's "Kingdom Come." Since then, she's starred in several TV movies, including her own biopic, 2016's "Toni Braxton: Un-Break My Heart" and "Faith Under Fire" which premiered earlier this year.

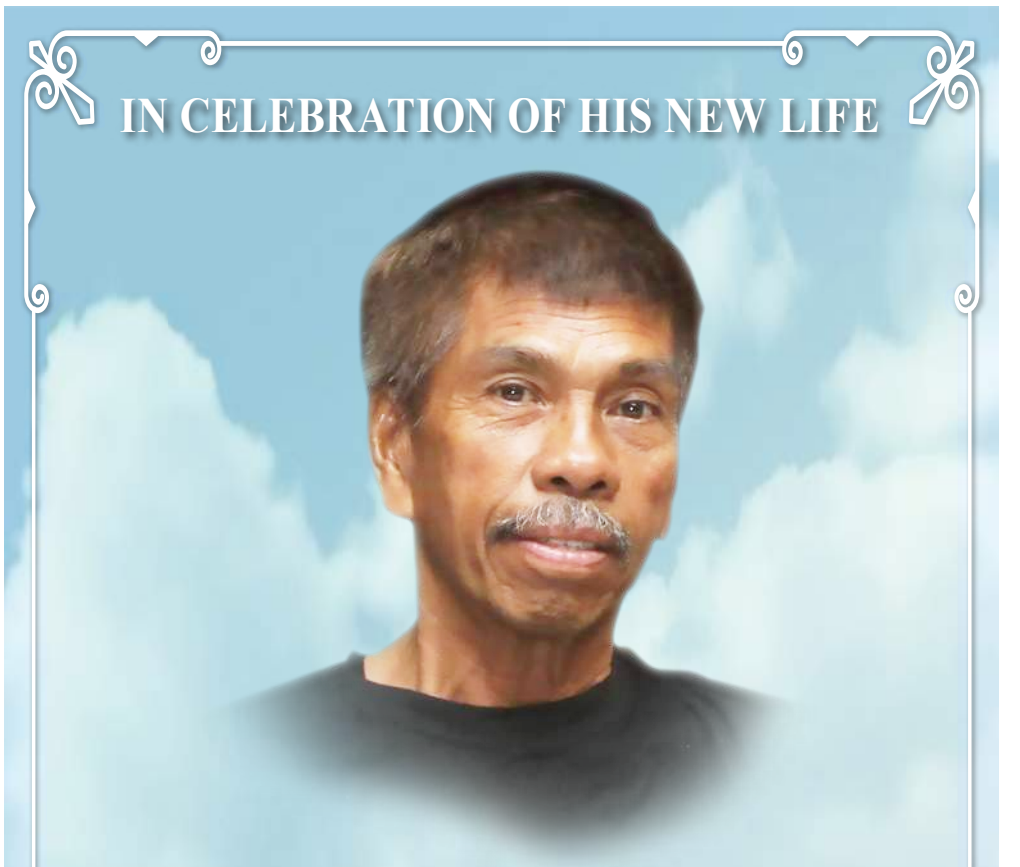
But longtime fans shouldn't be worried that Toni is swapping her music for movies. Why? "Because love it so much," Braxton exclaimed. "It's my favorite thing to do—performing."



HOLIDAY CARD

This photo released by Kensington Palace on Friday Dec. 14, 2018, shows the photo taken by Matt Porteous of Britain's Prince William and Kate, Duchess of Cambridge with their children Prince George, right, Princess Charlotte, center, and Prince Louis at Anmer Hall in Norfolk, east England, which is to be used as their 2018 Christmas card. AP

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE



†RICARDO NICOLAS REYES

(aka...Edeng, Bata)

Born on the 25th of June 1951,
was called by his Creator on the 6th of December 2018
to join his parents, the late Agapito Reyes and Arsenia Nicolas
in eternal peace and happiness.

In his new life, he will be interceding for and missed by
Bernardita Guban (spouse), Jeanylyn (daughter),
Marlon H. Vallejos (son-in-law), Rhine (son)
and Marlon Joaquin Vallejos (grandson).

He was laid to rest at Himalayang Palanyag of Parañaque City,
after a Catholic Mass at the Parañaque Cathedral
at 2:00p.m. on Tuesday, the 11th of December 2018.

Your thoughts and prayers are most appreciated.

-The family-

With blockbuster effects, Peter Jackson brings WWI to life

NEW YORK (AP)—Peter Jackson has used digital wizardry to conjure J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth and King Kong's 1930s New York, but he has now—in perhaps his most acclaimed film—employed all his technical powers to bring to life the Western Front of the first World War.

Jackson's "They Shall Not Grow Old" is the 57-year-old filmmaker's first documentary. Commissioned by Britain's Imperial War Museum to coincide with the centenary of the Armistice, Jackson assembled the film from more than 100 hours of footage from the front and 600 hours of audio interviews conducted in the 1960s with surviving British soldiers.

In the course of the five-year project, Jackson restored the heavily damaged, grainy footage, colorized it, stabilized the frame rates (many were only 13 frames per second, and could vary based upon how fast the cameraman was cranking) and transferred the film into 3-D. Along with adding battle sound effects, he even employed expert lip readers to recreate the unheard dialogue.

With the kind of technology usually employed on a big-budget spectacle, the fog of time lifted from the footage, revealing the soldiers anew.

"The people on the film became human beings again. Their humanity jumps out at you," Jackson said in an interview. "Their faces and the subtle way they move and their expressions, you just realize you're seeing you're seeing these people for the first time in 100 years."

"They Shall Not Grow Old," which takes its name from the Laurence Binyon poem "For the Fallen," has already played in the U.K., where it earned Jackson the best reviews of his career. "The effect is electrifying," wrote the Guardian. "The faces are unforgettable."

Fathom Events will screen the film in 500 theaters nationwide on Monday and again on Dec. 27 before a more traditional release from Warner Bros. beginning Jan. 11.

For Jackson, it's the culmination of a passion project, one undertaken in part as a tribute to the New Zealand filmmaker's grandfather, who fought in the war. The first three years of the project, edited at Jackson's post-production facility, Park Road Post, weren't spent cutting anything together but sifting through the material and cleaning it up.

"We were just listening, listening, listening, making notes and finding what this film was going to be," he says.

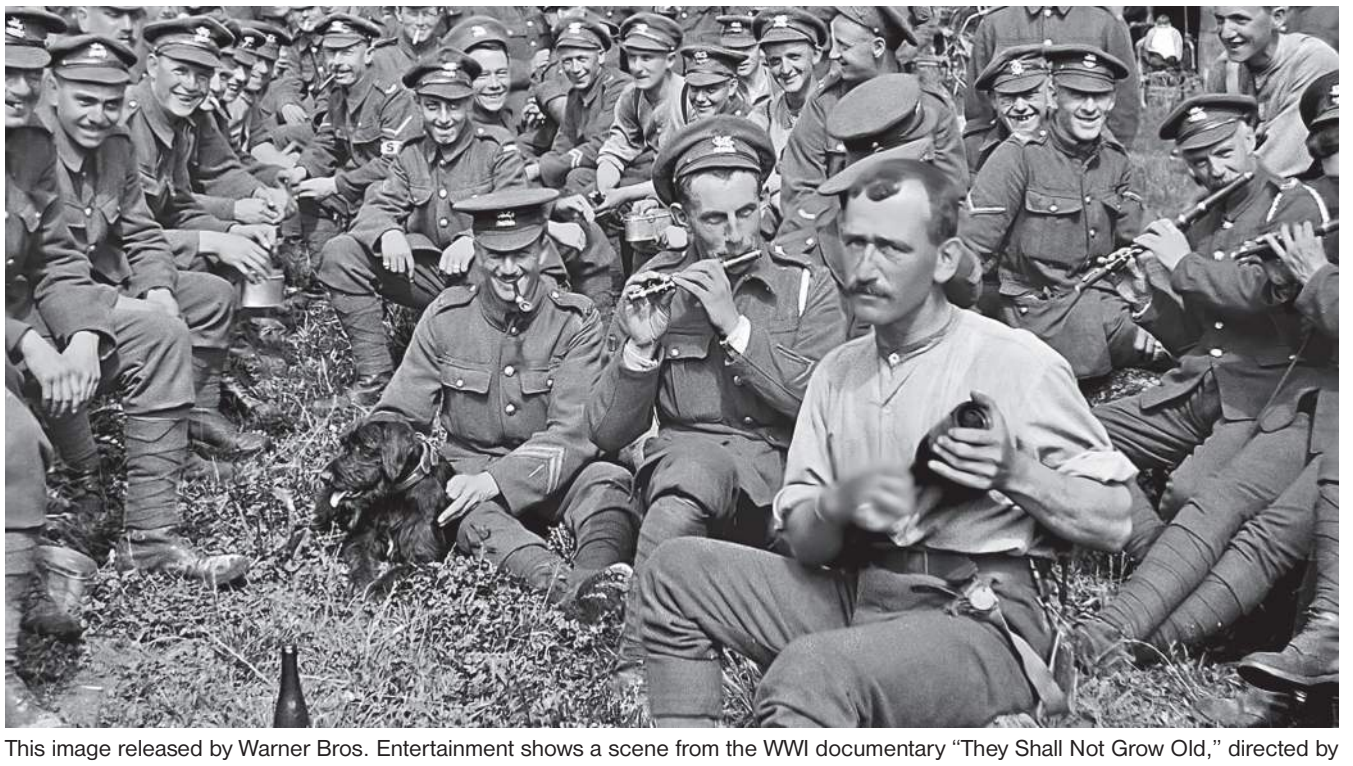
Startled by the clearness of the restoration, Jackson opted to impress as little as possible on the film. The only narration is that of the soldiers recounting their experiences; even dates and locations of battles have been withheld to capture the view of the war from those in the trenches. "They only saw what was right in front of their eyes," says Jackson.

The recollections of the British soldiers are surprisingly pragmatic and straightforward, lacking any sense of regret or self-pity. "They didn't want that and they didn't expect that," says Jackson. "I don't think they would really approve of the way we think of the first World War now."

But the director is also quick to point out that the 120 men interviewed don't reflect a universal story of the war. These are survivors, many of whom went on to have families and productive lives, looking back decades later. "If we had interviews from the millions of soldiers that were killed, they would tell a different story," says Jackson.

Clarity has always been elusive in WWI, a war with puzzling beginnings and staggering loss of life that nevertheless became overshadowed in the popular imagination by World War II. But the simple, unclouded lucidity of "They Shall Not Grow Old" offers a small window into the Great War. Jackson hopes it inspires young people to learn about WWI and archivists around the world to make similar restorations of historical film.

It's also the first worthwhile 3-D film in some time. Jackson, who was at the forefront of the reintroduction of 3-D, still believes it has value despite its cratered popularity.



This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows a scene from the WWI documentary "They Shall Not Grow Old," directed by Peter Jackson. AP

1947 best-picture Oscar sells for nearly $500,000 at auction

LOS ANGELES (AP) One Academy Award trophy sold for nearly $500,000 and the second for well over $200,000 in a rare auction of Oscars that ended Friday in Los Angeles.

A best-picture Oscar for "Gentleman's Agreement," the 1947 film starring Gregory Peck that took on anti-Semitism, sold for $492,000. A best picture statuette for 1935's "Mutiny on the Bounty" fetched $240,000.

Both were outpaced by an archive of papers on the origin and development of "The Wizard of Oz" that brought in $1.2 million.

Auction house Profiles in History announced the results after four days of bidding on Hollywood memorabilia that brought in more than $8 million in total.

Other items sold include a TIE fighter helmet from the original "Star Wars" that went for $240,000, a Phaser pistol from the original "Star Trek" TV series that fetched $192,000, a hover board Marty McFly rode in "Back to the Future II" that sold for $102,000, and a golden ticket from "Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory" that brought in $48,000.

The "Mutiny on the Bounty" Oscar price came close to auction-house projections, but the "Gentleman's Agreement" statuette brought in more than twice what was expected, for reasons that are not clear. The buyers of both Oscars and "The Wizard of Oz" document chose to remain anonymous.

Auctions of Oscar statuettes are very uncommon because winners from 1951 onward have had to agree that they or their heirs must offer it back to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for $1 before selling it elsewhere. The academy has said it firmly believes Oscars should be won, not bought.

Neither of the Oscars sold this week approached the record of $1.5 million paid by Michael Jackson to acquire David O. Selznick's "Gone With the Wind" Oscar in 1999.

The pressure of composing new music for 'Mary Poppins'



In this Nov. 29, 2018 file photo, Marc Shaiman, left, and Scott Wittman, co-lyricists for the songs in "Mary Poppins Returns," pose at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles. AP

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Everyone involved in the making of "Mary Poppins Returns " felt the pressure to do justice to the original 1964 film.

Rob Marshall worked on it for three straight years. Animators came out of retirement to do hand-drawn animation in the style of the first. Sets were built. Cast members moved their family to London for a year. But perhaps no one short of Emily Blunt and Marshall were as heavy with responsibility as composer Marc Shaiman and his co-lyricist Scott Wittman. They had the Oscar-winning songwriting duo Robert and Richard Sherman to live up to, after all.

Shaiman, who composed the score and nine original songs for the new film, credits the Shermans for getting him interested in music to begin with. He remembers being four-years-old and listening to the "Mary Poppins" album and thinking, "This is what I want to do with my life."

"He was a precocious 4-year-old," added Wittman, who has known Shaiman for over four decades. The two are Broadway mainstays and have worked together on the "Hairspray" and "Catch Me if You Can" musicals.

As a framework, Marshall said he "didn't want to reimagine the music and have it be a contemporary version of "Mary Poppins," or Mary Poppins singing 'Let It Go' or something." He wanted it in the style of the Sherman brothers and classic movie musicals, which became an opportunity for Shaiman and Wittman.

"We realized this was our chance to thank them via music and lyrics," Shaiman said. "The whole movie is to say thank you, you've taught us all of these things, let us show you what you've given us by doing our take on the story."

The process of writing the score and the songs was long and laborious, and a true team effort: Four months of twice-a-week sessions with Marshall and screenwriters David Magee and John DeLuca to hammer out the story, the script and the direction of the songs together, and decide which moments in the P.L. Travers books to musicalize.

"Very often we would say to David, can you write a monologue of what you think this should be?" Wittman said. "And then we'd say OK thanks we're taking that and we're going to write a lyric to it."

They also were able to write specifically for Blunt and Lin-Manuel Miranda, playing to their strengths. The two men said Blunt has the rare gift of "perfect pitch."

"I loved working with those two guys, they're a rip," Blunt said. "They're just hilarious to be around."

Wittman likes to quote Lin-Manuel Miranda's summation of the music.

"He said this Mary Poppins rhymes with the first movie," Wittman said. "We felt it was important that they both live in the same world. That influenced the writing."

Wittman, the co-lyricist, had books upon books about London in the 30s, dictionaries of cockney rhyming slang and encyclopedias of odd Victorian words piled up in his studio that he studied and would go back to in crafting the new lyrics. He laughed that despite his extensive research, there were a few times he and Shaiman, both Americans, got caught with a rhyme that didn't quite work with an English accent. One was pointed out by Miranda's dialect coach, the other by the young actors portraying the Banks children.

The lyrics in question that the kids caught, "hand" and "command," were to be sung by Meryl Streep, who, because of the "bizarre, bouillabaisse" of an accent she was affecting was able to make it work.

Spanish prosecutors file tax evasion charges against Shakira

MADRID (AP)—Spanish prosecutors have charged pop music star Shakira with tax evasion, alleging she failed to pay more than 14.5 million euros ($16.3 million) between 2012 and 2014. The Colombian singer denied the charges.

The charges published Friday allege that Shakira listed the Bahamas as her official residence for tax purposes during those years but was in fact living in Spain with her partner, Spanish soccer player Gerard Pique.

Tax rates are much lower in the Bahamas than in Spain.

Shakira said in a statement Friday through her representatives that she was not a legal resident in Spain during the years in question and owed nothing to the Spanish tax authorities, who are using her "as a scapegoat" to frighten other taxpayers into coming clean.

Prosecutors in Barcelona said Shakira's travel abroad was for short periods because of professional commitments, while most of the year she stayed in Spain. They want her to pay tax in Spain on her worldwide income.

Shakira officially moved to Spain for tax purposes in 2015, after having two children by Pique.

A magistrate will assess whether there is enough evidence to put Shakira on trial.

Prosecutors want Shakira to pay a bond of 19.4 million euros—the amount they say she owes in tax, plus 33 percent, in accordance with Spanish law. Otherwise, they recommend a court freeze of her assets to that amount.

Shakira was named in the "Paradise Papers" leaks that detailed the offshore tax arrangements of numerous high-profile individuals, including musical celebrities like Madonna and U2's Bono.

The documents were obtained by German daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung and investigated by Spanish news website El Confidencial.

Spain's tax authorities referred their probe to the Barcelona prosecutor's office a year ago.

Sports celebrities have also been in trouble with Spanish tax authorities, including soccer stars Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.



AP

In this Oct. 11, 2018 file photo, Shakira performs at Azteca Stadium in Mexico City.

Kanye reignites Drake feud on Twitter, alleges threats

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kanye West is not sending Christmas cheer to Drake.

West appeared to reignite a feud with the fellow rapper in a series of tweets on Thursday in which he claimed Drake had called trying to threaten him.

West wrote "So drake if anything happens to me or anyone from my family you are the first suspect - So cut the tough talk."

West alleged Drake was behind audience members rushing the stage and splashing fellow rapper Pusha T with liquid during a concert in Toronto in November.

Drake did not post a response. An email seeking comment was sent to a Drake representative.

The rappers have had an ongoing feud this year, but West had apologized to Drake in September.

Apple strikes deal to produce new 'Peanuts' content

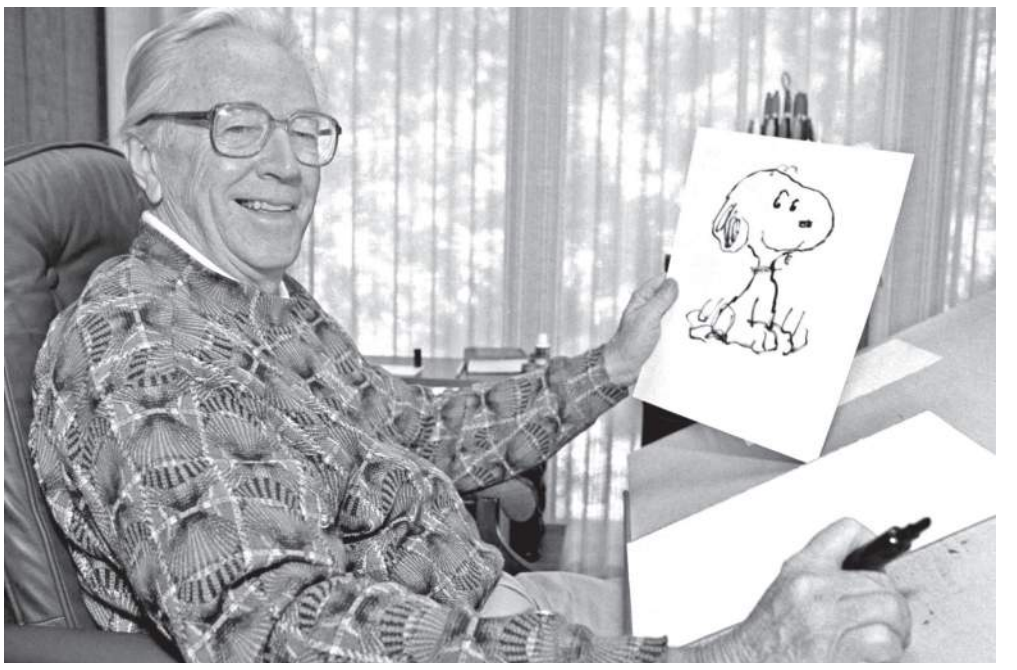
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Charlie Brown, Snoopy and the "Peanuts" crew will have a new home on Apple's streaming service.

Apple has struck a deal with DHX Media to produce new "Peanuts" content. The global children's content and brands company will develop and produce original programs for Apple including new series, specials and shorts based on the beloved characters.

"Peanuts" was created by Charles M. Schulz in 1950.

DHX will produce original short-form STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) content that will be exclusive to Apple, including astronaut Snoopy.

Peanuts Worldwide and NASA recently signed a Space Act Agreement, designed to inspire a passion for space exploration and STEM among the next generation of students.



AP

In this Feb. 12, 2000, file photo, cartoonist Charles M. Schulz displays a sketch of his beloved character "Snoopy" in his office in Santa Rosa, Calif.

MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski apologizes for homophobic comment

NEW YORK (AP) — President Trump attacked MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski on Thursday for using a homophobic slur on the air and tweeted that if a conservative person had said it, "that person would be banned permanently from television."

"She will probably be given a pass despite their terrible ratings," Trump said.

"Morning Joe," the show Brzezinski co-hosts with husband Joe Scarborough, regularly has harsh takes on Trump and his administration. Brzezinski was criticizing Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Thursday for comments regarding the murder of Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

She said it sounded like Pompeo was carrying water for a "wanna-be dictator," using a cruder term.

Afterward, she apologized via Twitter, saying it was a "SUPER BAD choice of words."

MSNBC had no comment on Trump's tweet.

Brzezinski was not on the air Thursday due to a long-planned family matter, an MSNBC spokesman said. Her Pompeo reference, which had drawn social media criticism, was not mentioned on the air.

Affair with a married man earns sister's disapproval

DEAR ABBY: My sister has been having an affair with a married man. When I asked if he was going to leave his wife, she said no, and it was fine with her. She claims his wife is fat and that they have a son with severe disabilities, and she (my sister) wouldn't want the responsibility of that, even though I'm sure the boy would stay with his mother.

She refers to him as her "honey," and he buys her things. (She has always been materialistic.) She stays in contact with him constantly on her iPad and says how much he loves her.

I would want to be open and have everyone get to know about my honey instead of sneaking around. When I say I don't believe he loves her, she gets mad and accuses me of being jealous. I also told her that if I loved someone, I'd want to be with him and not communicate via email. Gifts wouldn't make up for the person not being with me, especially if I claimed to love him.

I was in a relationship with a married man once, but I wasn't happy about it and ended it. Am I off base because I feel the way I do?

SNEAKING AROUND IN MAINE

DEAR SNEAKING: You're not off base. But you're also not your sister. The two of you appear to have very different values. While you want a full relationship, the "crumbs" and goodies she's getting from her honey may be enough for her, and she may regard their stolen moments as exciting. If she were hoping for more than the status quo, I would say she's wasting her time. But she seems to know the score.

DEAR ABBY: I know three people who have cancer. One is terminal, one is probably terminal and the other is possibly terminal. The second and third individuals I've known for a long time. The terminal person, however, is a social acquaintance —someone I met through a close friend.

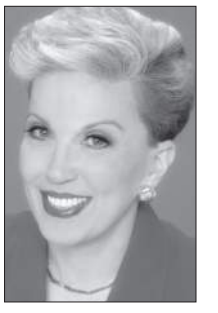
Over the last two years we have socialized a half-dozen times, but we've never had an extended conversation, and I don't especially like her. As her condition has worsened, she has withdrawn from most socializing. I receive updates from my friend, who takes her to appointments, shopping, etc. when she can't drive herself or when she feels the woman needs company. Officially, I don't know anything. But I was told her oncologist has informed her she's got six months.

My question is: Should I contact her? I'll feel like an idiot and like I'm invading her privacy if I do, yet somehow guilty if I don't. The only thing I would say to her is that I'm sorry this has happened to her. My gut tells me I should keep quiet, but my guilt is getting in the way.

FRIEND OF A FRIEND IN NEW YORK

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR FRIEND: I assume you know as much about this woman as you do because your good friend is confiding in you. If you don't know anything "officially," I assume your friend was sworn to secrecy and chose to tell you because she receives emotional support from you. I see nothing to be gained by inserting yourself at this point, and you should not feel guilty for keeping your distance. Listen to your gut.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

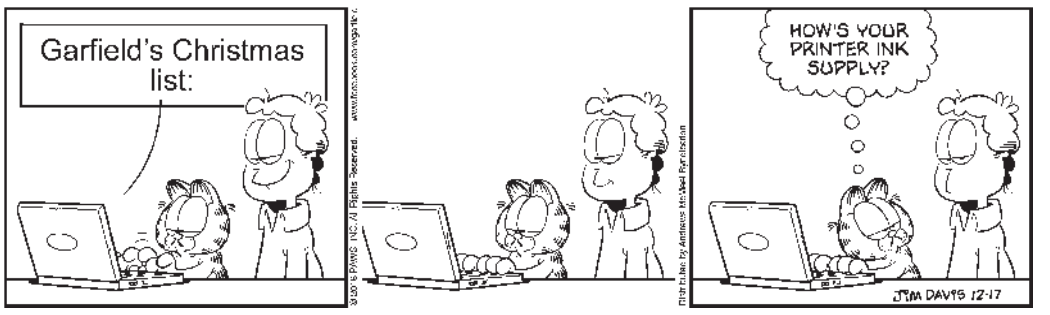
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



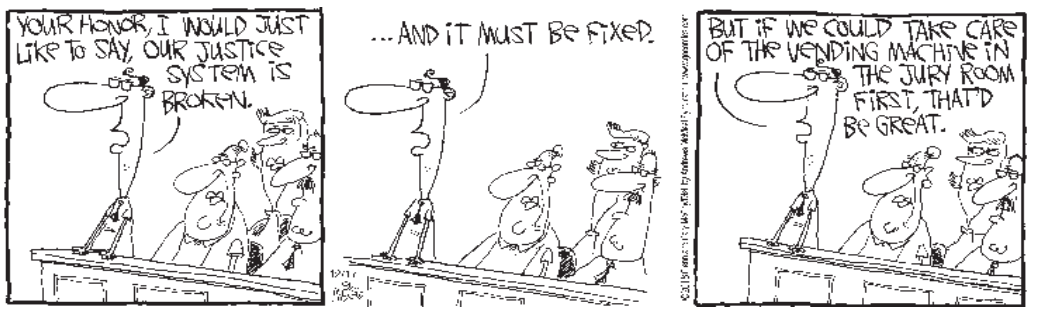
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Poke
4 Closes with a bang
9 Ump
12 Khan title
13 Devoured
14 Raw mineral
15 Moscow attraction
17 Espionage org.
18 Attila, notably
19 Sealing ring
21 Tirade
24 Stretches (out)
25 Roth svgs. plan
26 Allow
28 Sportscast offering
31 Protuberance
33 Shred
35 Cabbage salad
36 Long stories
38 Chairman of China
40 Presidential nickname
41 Killer whale
43 James of "The Blacklist"
45 Not dressy
47 Fall from grace
48 German cry
49 Symbol of Japan
54 I love (Lat.)
55 Higher than
56 Blackbird
57 Just out
58 Nibbles
59 Mom's mate

DOWN

1 Pickle holder
2 Bio stat
3 Abysmal
4 "Part II" film
5 Wash, as clothes
6 — glance
7 Combine
8 Furtive ones
9 Reliable
10 New York canal
11 Accomplishment
16 That girl
20 Brief moments
21 Trig function
22 Field yield
23 NPR's "Fresh Air," e.g.
27 Singer McGraw
29 Yard tool
30 Pitcher
32 Off-white
34 Lethargic
37 Ornamental beetle
39 Speaks one's mind
42 Suspect's excuse
44 Director Lee
45 James of "The Godfather"
46 Pinnacle
50 Drunkard
51 Potential syrup
52 Half of dos
53 Pinch

Solution time: 21 mins.

Z	A	G		C	T	S		U	N	F	I	T
E	M	C		O	U	T		B	U	B	B	A
S	O	T		D	R	I	V	E		I	M	E
T	R	U		L	A	R	C	R				
Y	E	P	S		E	S		O	D	I	N	
			P	A	T		T	V		I	M	E
U	B	C	A					I	H	O	P	E
M	E	T	I	M	E		F	E	E			
A	I	I	N		D	E			R	I	N	K
			S	I	L	A	S		D	I	N	
Q	U	I	E		T	I	M	E		I	C	I
E	S	T	E	E		D	E	N		O	F	S
D	F	A				F	S	T		M	F	I

Friday's answer 12 - 17

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12			■	13					■	14		
15			16						■	17		
■	■	■	18			■	19		20			
21	22	23				■	24				■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44			
45	46					■	47			■	■	■
48			■	49		50				51	52	53
54			■	55					■	56		
57			■	58					■	59		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Milla Jovovich, 43; Bill Pullman, 65; Eugene Levy, 72; Ernie Hudson, 73.

Happy Birthday: Home, family and taking care of loved ones should be your priorities. Understand what's expected of you and find new ways to use your skills and creativity to enhance what you have to offer the world. Walk away from those who meddle or try to interfere in your affairs. Be secretive about your assets and passwords. Your numbers are 4, 13, 20, 28, 31, 39, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Share your stories with others, but don't embellish. Speak from the heart; you will bring joy to those around you. Take nothing and no one for granted. Step up and do your part and positive change will take place. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take a moment to connect with elders in your family or community. The time spent will be appreciated and gratifying. What you find out will give you something to think about as the year comes to a close. Make love a priority. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Look around and be realistic when assessing situations, people and what to say and do. Your response will make a difference to the way others react and how they in turn treat those they encounter. Positive thought leads to constructive action. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Be sensitive to other people's needs. Let your intuition help you decipher the best way to deal with situations as they arise. Listen carefully to what others have to say. You will learn a valuable lesson in leadership. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Get past the negatives in your life and move toward people who offer peace, joy and love. You may not be able to change someone else's mood, but that doesn't mean you can't appreciate the splendor appearing around you. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look beyond the immediate stress that this time of year can present. Give in to laughter and see the humor in the little annoyances or in those who tend to overreact or miss the point of the spirit of the season. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Keep an open mind and heart when dealing with friends, siblings and the youngsters and elders in your life. The time spent bringing about positive change will help alleviate negativity and emotional manipulation. Walk away from indulgent situations. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Listen to the trials and tribulations others have endured, and you will realize you are not alone or the only one who faces stressful times. Be creative in your response; you'll gain support and the help you need. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Personal change will make you feel good about moving forward. Prepare for upcoming festivities, and take time to reach out to older relatives who are isolated. Don't get involved in gossip. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let a little problem escalate because you don't see it as being important. Consider the emotional turmoil someone else might be going through before you dismiss lending a helping hand. This time of the year can be overwhelming. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Consider your options and what you would like to change with regard to how you handle or make money, and you'll come up with a plan that will bring about positive change. A gift or bonus will take you by surprise. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Less is more. Keep that in mind while shopping, partying and dealing with people who tend to talk big but produce little. Caution will save you from loss and stress. Focus inward and make positive personal changes. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined, original and ambitious. You are outgoing and spirited.

*To submit astrological questions to the "**Dear Eugenia**" column, visit **Eugenialast.com**, or join Eugenia on **Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1	7		8		2	
5		2		3				
					4		9	5
9		5		7				8
	8		2		6		4	
1				9		2		7
7	6		3					
				8		9		4
	5		9		2	1		

Difficulty Level ★ 12/17

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

6	1	3	7	2	9	4	8	5
2	7	4	1	5	8	3	6	9
5	9	8	3	6	4	7	2	1
7	2	9	6	3	5	8	1	4
8	4	6	9	1	2	5	7	3
3	5	1	4	8	7	2	9	6
9	3	5	8	7	1	6	4	2
4	6	7	2	9	3	1	5	8
1	8	2	5	4	6	9	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12-17

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

SNOW TUBING — Solution: 9 letters

D	P	A	R	K	A	E	S	E	D	I	L	S	L	L
E	O	E	F	A	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y	I	A
T	L	N	S	R	S	R	I	D	I	N	G	N	A	N
A	A	U	U	L	S	H	L	N	C	N	E	T	L	D
L	R	O	L	T	I	R	A	E	G	U	J	H	A	E
U	C	I	E	E	S	A	M	N	P	C	A	E	Y	D
S	H	E	N	M	P	E	R	S	D	O	C	T	E	A
N	P	C	I	L	L	C	E	T	O	L	K	I	R	S
I	U	E	P	E	O	A	H	S	W	D	E	C	S	P
P	M	E	L	H	W	R	T	O	N	H	T	S	P	O
P	P	L	A	C	E	I	P	R	K	I	D	S	E	R
Y	I	F	U	B	C	I	N	F	C	H	A	L	E	T
A	I	R	B	O	R	N	E	T	U	B	E	N	D	A
G	V	U	A	G	L	I	S	T	E	N	I	N	G	H
E	R	T	I	U	S	W	O	N	S	R	I	D	E	R

© 2018 Tribune Media Services, Inc. www.wonderword.com 12/17

Airborne, Alpine, Arctic, Chalet, Coat, Cold, Course, Curve, Donuts, Down, Fleece, Frost, Gear, Glistening, Grip, Handles, Hat, Helmet, Hills, Insulated, Jacket, Kids, Landed, Layers, Lineups, Nippy, Parka, Plow, Polar, Pump, Race, Rider, Riding, Rubber, Safe, Slides, Slippery, Snowsuit, Speed, Spin, Sport, Steep, Synthetic, Thermal, Trails, Tube, Winter

Last Friday's Answer: Numbers

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

LAND/HOUSE for LEASE/SALE

- Land: 10,843 sq. m. - Finasisu
- Land: 2,288 sq. m. - As Terlaje
- House: 2Bdrm, 1 bath - Kagman III
  3Bdrm, 3bath - Kagman III

Interested parties contact
Tel. 235-5856 / Cel. 483 -0613

(4) CEMENT LABORER

Cement handling equipment
Experience preferred.
Will train motivated individuals.
Wages - $10.00 per hour

Apply in person at
Hanson Micronesia, Cement Inc.
Tel: 670 322-3333

SAIPAN TRUCKING



Scope of business:

- Container Island-wide Transportation
- Bulk Cargo Transportation
- Rental
- Customs Clearance
- Other Services

Our company has good service and reasonable price.

If you need any additional information, please call me at 287-6808/6801, 322-5678
Address: Dandan Saipan Trucking Office

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

San Jose Village • P.O. Box 502149 • Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245 • Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

INVITATION FOR BIDS
2019-CDA-03-IFB

CLOSING DATE: Friday, December 28, 2018 • TIME: 10:00 AM

"JANITORIAL and LAWN CARE SERVICES FOR CDA"

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Commonwealth Development Authority office, 2nd Floor CDA Bldg, in Oleai, Saipan during regular working hours or by facsimile request to 235-7147.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ DONNIE P. MILITANTE
Acting Executive Director

/s/ JOSEPH A. TUDELA
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP19-CHCC/CGC-005

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 14, 2019 TIME: 09:00AM

**"LEASED VEHICLE
COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAM
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION"**

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT CHCC PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY DIVISION-MEDICAL SUPPLY STORAGE FACILITY LOWER BASE SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ PRISCILLA M. IAKOPO
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

FOR SALE

2004 V- Rod Harley Davidson

4,000 miles. Radiator cooled. Pristine condition.



Serious inquiry only.
Call 483 4258 or email to galu4258@yahoo.com

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: December 17,2018 • **CLOSING DATE:** January 03, 2019
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary:
2018-013	Accountant I	PL30-01 to PL30-05 $22,576.96.44 to $27,437.44-per annum

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be picked up, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-9447/6866 or by email to jjmuna@nmhc.gov.mp. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

PLACE YOUR ADVERT HERE!
For opportunities contact us at 235-6397

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.

SUBSCRIBING MEANS **MORE**

Please call 235-NEWS



WHATZIT Solution: Credit squeeze

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS

- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

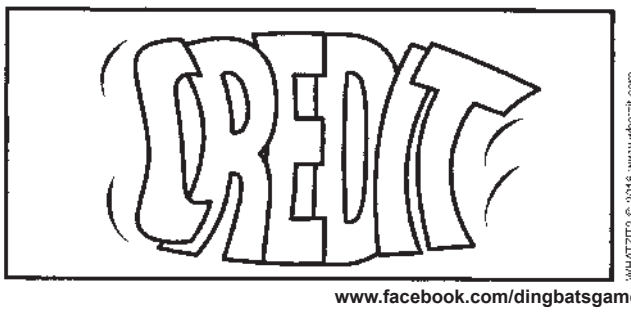
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Browns beat Broncos, keep slim playoff hopes alive

DENVER (AP)—Baker Mayfield capitalized on Denver's depleted cornerback corps and dubious coaching decisions in leading the Cleveland Browns past the Broncos 17-16 on Saturday night, keeping alive their slim hopes of ending the NFL's longest playoff drought.

Mayfield's 2-yard TD toss to Antonio Calloway with just under 12 minutes left provided the winning margin for the Browns (6-7-1). They snapped an 11-game losing streak to the Broncos (6-8).

Improving to 3-28 on the road over the last four seasons, the Browns still have a shot at their first winning season since 2007 and even their first playoff berth since 2002 thanks to their first win over Denver since 1990.

Calloway's touchdown made it 17-13 and came with safety Justin Simmons in coverage because the Broncos were down five cornerbacks.

The Broncos responded with a 13-play drive that ate up more than seven minutes, but after Phillip Lindsay was stuffed for no gain on third-and-1 from the Cleveland 6, coach Vance Joseph sent in kicker Brandon McManus for a field goal instead of going for it.

"I wanted points there," Joseph explained. "We had about 4:35 left. We had one timeout and the two-minute warning. I trust our defense to get a stop there."

It didn't happen, at least not right away.

Nick Chubb reeled off a 40-yard run on the first play, and on fourth-and-1 from the Denver 10, Cleveland interim coach Gregg Williams went for it—and Chubb was dropped for a 2-yard loss by Adam Gotsis.



AP

Cleveland Browns defensive back T.J. Carrie (38) intercepts a pass intended for Denver Broncos wide receiver DaeSean Hamilton (17) during the second half of an NFL football game, Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018, in Denver.

The Broncos got the ball back at their 13 with 1:49 remaining and reached the 50-yard line with 52 seconds left. But a spike, two incompletions and a sack by Jabril Peppers all but ended Denver's playoff hopes. They could officially be eliminated with Sunday's slate of games.

The Broncos began the night with cornerbacks Chris Harris Jr. and Isaac Yiadom sidelined, and they lost Brendan Langley to a concussion in the first half and newly-signed Jamar Taylor to an ejection in the second half on the same play Bradley Roby went out with a laceration in his mouth. Roby later returned.

Texans 29, Jets 22

In East Rutherford, Deshaun Watson threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to DeAndre Hopkins with 2:15 left, lifting the Houston Texans to a 29-22 comeback victory over Sam Darnold and the New York Jets on Saturday night.

After Darnold and the Jets took their first lead of the game on Elijah McGuire's 2-yard touchdown run, Watson and the Texans (10-4) answered right back.

A holding call on cornerback Morris Claiborne on third down prolonged the drive, and Watson completed passes of 20 and 3 yards to Demaryius Thomas and 7 yards to Hopkins to get to New York's 14. Watson then found Hopkins streaking down the left sideline and launched a pass that the receiver somehow came down with despite being tightly covered by Claiborne.

Ka'imi Fairbairn's 40-yard field goal made it 29-22 with 54 seconds left. Darnold and the Jets (4-10) had one more opportunity to try to tie — or win — but Houston held on.

Cowboys can prove they are real by grabbing NFC East title

If the Dallas Cowboys are for real, they will win their sixth straight game and clinch the NFC East at Indianapolis on Sunday.

If the Colts are for real, they will knock off the Cowboys and stamp themselves as true contenders for the AFC playoffs.

With three games remaining, Dallas (8-5) is in control of its division, thanks to a staunch defense and a revived air game with the addition of Amari Cooper. Has any veteran been more worth a first-round draft pick in a midseason trade?

"I didn't know we were going to get all that, honestly,"' says NFL rushing leader Ezekiel Elliott about Cooper, acquired from Oakland. "But when I finally saw him in person, when I saw him catch the ball, I saw him run around and run after the catch, that's when I really realized he's truly special."

A Cowboys win does the trick in the NFC East, as would losses by Philadelphia and Washington. Dallas has almost no chance at a first-round playoff bye, though.

So what? The Cowboys were 3-5 and sinking and now look where they are.

Talking about sinking, Indianapolis was 1-5 two months ago. Then the Colts (7-6) won five straight before that string ended with an awful performance at Jacksonville. So they went to AFC South leader Houston, winner of nine in a row, and won.

In his comeback from a 2017 season lost to a shoulder injury, Andrew Luck has been sensational, working behind an offensive line that has gone from sieve to sturdy. Luck has been sacked 16 times, second fewest in the league.

Indy is in a four-way tie for the second AFC wild-card slot with Baltimore, Tennessee and Miami.

"Most people call this the dash for cash," Colts tight end Eric Ebron says. "So you just try to win."

Two road teams won Saturday, with Cleveland edging Denver 17-16, and Houston beating the New York Jets 29-22, and.

Baker Mayfield's 2-yard TD toss to Antonio Calloway with just under 12 minutes left provided the winning margin for the Browns (6-7-1). They snapped an 11-game losing streak to the Broncos (6-8).

Houston's Deshaun Watson threw a 14-yard touchdown pass to DeAndre Hopkins with 2:15 left. The Texans are 10-4, and the Jets 4-10.

The weekend began Thursday night with the Los Angeles Chargers' 29-28 comeback victory at Kansas City.

Philip Rivers led the Chargers to a pair of touchdowns in the final minutes, then hit Mike Williams for the go-ahead 2-point conversion with 4 seconds remaining. The Chargers (11-3) trailed 28-14 before Justin Jackson scored with 3:49 to go.

Not only did the Chargers clinch a playoff berth, they forged a first-place tie with the Chiefs (11-3) in the AFC West while ending a nine-game losing streak to their longtime division rivals.

New England (9-4) at Pittsburgh (7-5-1)

Tampa Bay (5-8) at Baltimore (7-6)

The AFC North has become a jumble with Pittsburgh's slump (three successive defeats) and Baltimore's resurgence. These matchups don't bode well for the Steelers, especially if Ben Roethlisberger's rib and James Conner's ankle are factors.

The Patriots have won the past five meetings. Of course, the 2017 version is unforgettable: Roethlisberger threw an interception in the end zone with 5 seconds remaining after tight end Jesse James' apparent go-ahead touchdown with 29 seconds left was overturned on review. Officials ruled the catch did not "survive the ground;" James jostled it after stretching across the goal line.

So the league amended the rule in the offseason to allow some movement by the ball if a receiver maintains possession.

New England can clinch its 10th straight AFC East title with a win or tie and a Miami loss or tie.

Baltimore, meanwhile, will sit the now-healthy Joe Flacco behind first-round pick Lamar Jackson, who has won three of his four starts with Flacco (hip) sidelined. The Ravens' ground game has been sensational with the rookie behind center:

Jackson has 336 yards rushing over the past four games, the most by any NFL quarterback in his first four starts during the Super Bowl era. Baltimore also is allowing an NFL-low 18.5 points per game.

Philadelphia (6-7) at Los Angeles Rams (11-2)

New Orleans (11-2) at Carolina (6-7), Monday

Top seed in the NFC is what it's all about for the Saints and Rams, who lost to New Orleans this season.

The Rams and Saints each clinch a first-round bye with a win and a Chicago loss or tie, or a tie and a Chicago loss.

New Orleans has struggled offensively the past two weeks, but this is a matchup Drew Brees enjoys. The Saints beat the Panthers three times last season, including the playoffs. Brees has completed 76.7 percent of his passes for 2,714 yards with 21 touchdowns and four interceptions in the past 10 NFC South games and has 46 TDs and 20 INTs vs. the Panthers, who have lost their past five overall. But Carolina is 5-1 at home.

With the Rams coming off the lowest-scoring performance under Sean McVay, a 15-6 loss to the Bears, they try to avoid falling in consecutive games with McVay in charge. Indeed, he has won at least two straight after all seven of his career defeats.

Eagles QB Carson Wentz is battling a back injury. He tore up his knee at LA last year and missed his team's run to the championship.

Tennessee (7-6) at New York Giants (5-8)

The other weekend game at MetLife Stadium; notice the neutral end zones.

New York once was 1-7, yet has a very long shot at making the playoffs. A retooled offensive line has provided time for Eli Manning to show he isn't over the hill, and for rookie running back Saquon Barkley to go wild.

Tennessee has had at least 400 yards in each of the past two games, and hasn't managed three straight since Oct. 1-16, 2000. It has allowed the fewest touchdowns in the league this season, 27.

LeBron, Lonzo power Lakers past Hornets

CHARLOTTE (AP)— LeBron James has sung the praises of Lonzo Ball all season. The duo gave us a glimpse Saturday night of how good the Los Angeles Lakers can be when both are clicking together.

James and Ball each notched a triple-double in the Lakers' 128-100 rout of the Charlotte Hornets, the first teammates with a triple-double in the same game since Jason Kidd and Vince Carter did it for the New Jersey Nets on April 7, 2007. They are the first Lakers teammates to accomplish the feat since Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on Jan. 22, 1982.

James had team-highs with 24 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists in just three quarters of work. He headed to the bench for good in the closing minute of the third as the Lakers pushed their lead to 30. Ball finished with 16 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists, hitting the mark on his 10th rebound with seven minutes left in the fourth. He exited shortly after.

"We just tried to do a little bit of everything to help our team win," James said on the floor afterwards. "Try to put the ball in the hole, rebound so we can start the break and get our guys involved.

"That's what most important to both of us, getting our guys involved. It's a great feeling when you're able to make a pass to a teammate and see them make a shot."

James' triple-double was his second of the season and the 75th of his career. Ball notched his first triple-double of the season and third of his career.

"They're both such brilliant playmakers that when they're aggressive and they can get in the lane, it puts a lot of pressure on another team's defense," said Lakers coach Luke Walton.

The Lakers put the game away in the third, expanding a seven-point halftime lead into a 30-point advantage.



AP
Los Angeles Lakers guard Lonzo Ball (2) dunks against Charlotte Hornets center Cody Zeller, left, in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018.

Suns 107, Timberwolves 99

In Phoenix, Devin Booker returned from a six-game absence to score 28 points and Phoenix beat the Minnesota Timberwolves 107-99, giving the Suns a two-game winning streak for the first time in almost a year.

Deandre Ayton had 18 points and 12 rebounds for the Suns, including 10 points and five boards in the fourth quarter, when Phoenix pulled away. T.J. Warren added 21 points for Phoenix.

The Suns, coming off a victory over Dallas on Thursday, last won two in a row on Dec. 26-29, 2017.

Karl-Anthony Towns scored 28 for the Timberwolves but only seven in the second half. Derrick Rose added 25 for Minnesota, which finished 0-4 on a western road trip and is 2-12 on the road this season.

Pistons, 113, Celtics 104

In Detroit, Blake Griffin scored 27 points and Andre Drummond added 19 points and 20 rebounds to help Detroit beat Boston, snapping the Celtics' eight-game winning streak.

Detroit also ended its own six-game skid with a solid 48-minute effort. The Pistons took control with a 13-0 run in the third quarter and played well at the start of the fourth as well.

Kyrie Irving led Boston with 26 points.

Both teams shot over 60 percent from the field in the first quarter, and the game was still tight at halftime, with Detroit up 57-56. Drummond punctuated his team's 13-point run in the third with a dunk that put the Pistons ahead 76-66.

Rockets 105, Grizzlies 97

In Memphis, James Harden had 32 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for his second consecutive triple-double, and Houston held off a fourth-quarter burst to beat Memphis.

Harden, who had 50 points in a triple-double in the Rockets' victory over the Lakers on Thursday, was 9 of 14 from the field, including 3 of 7 from outside the arc as Houston won its third straight.

Clint Capela finished with 26 points and 10 rebounds, while Gerald Green scored 17 points.

Mike Conley led Memphis with 22 points and six assists, while Marc Gasol added 17 points and nine rebounds. Ja-Mychal Green had 13 points.

Magic 96, Jazz 89

In Mexico City, Evan Fournier scored 24 points, Terrence Ross came off the bench to add 10 of his 19 in the fourth quarter, and Orlando rallied from an 11-point deficit to beat Utah and sweep its two-game homestand in Mexico City.

Ross shot 8 of 9 from the field and Nikola Vucevic added 15 points and a season-high 19 rebounds for the Magic (13-15), who beat the Chicago Bulls 97-91 on Thursday.

Orlando won despite 22 turnovers, 15 in the first half, and is in second place in the Southeast Division behind the Charlotte Hornets.

Bulls 98, Spurs 93

In San Atonio, Kris Dunn scored 24 points, Lauri Markkanen added 23 and the Chicago Bulls rallied from a 21-point deficit in the second half to stun the San Antonio Spurs.

The rally snapped Chicago's three-game skid and ended San Antonio's four-game winning streak.

LaMarcus Aldridge had 29 points and 12 rebounds for San Antonio, which dominated the first half. DeMar DeRozan added 21 points.

Take 2: Wizards acquire Ariza from Suns for Oubre, Rivers

WASHINGTON (AP) — After a three-way trade fell apart over mistaken identity, the Wizards are getting Trevor Ariza after all.

Washington agreed in principle Saturday to acquire Ariza from the Phoenix Suns for Kelly Oubre Jr. and Austin Rivers, according to a person familiar with the deal. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because it had not been announced by either team.

This Ariza trade came together hours after a potential three-way deal involving the Grizzlies fell apart late Friday night over whether Memphis was including Dillon Brooks or MarShon Brooks. The saga included general managers informing players they'd been traded, awkward conversations to explain they weren't and finally the talks coming to an end.

Wizards players went through the emotional roller coaster of the failed trade after their loss at Brooklyn as Oubre and Rivers were still on the team bus to the airport and the flight home.

"We all understand it's a business," guard John Wall said after practice Saturday. "You never know what's going to happen, when it's going to happen. The first time I've ever seen a trade go dead and guys are on a bus talking about it. Kind of devastating for those guys."

Ariza, 33, returns to Washington, where he played the 2012-13 and 2013-14 seasons. The 6-foot-8, 215-pound swingman is averaging 9.9 points, 5.6 rebounds and 3.3 assists in 26 games with the Suns this season, the last remaining on his contract.

Phoenix forward Josh Jackson called Ariza "the ultimate veteran" and the ideal guy to have on a young team.

"He was always constantly teaching us," Jackson said. "He's been in the league a long time, been on a lot of winning teams, and whenever he saw something, even if it was the smallest thing, whenever he saw something that wasn't right or something that we weren't doing right all the way, he would take the time, even stop practice, and just talk and tell us the right way to do it and why."

Until the trade can be finalized, Oubre and Rivers weren't at Wizards practice, and Ariza wasn't with the Suns. But Wall and Bradley Beal said they've each texted with Ariza since word of the trade got out.

"It's always great to add a guy like Trevor back—one of the best veterans and teammates I had in the past," Wall said. "We know what he brings to the table, and it seems like he's excited to be here."

To get Ariza, the Wizards gave up the 23-year-old Oubre, who they wouldn't part with in a potential trade for Jimmy Butler earlier this fall. Oubre was the 15th overall pick in 2015 and is averaging 12.9 points in his fourth NBA season.

Rivers goes to Phoenix after Washington had just acquired the 26-year-old from the Los Angeles Clippers over the summer. Rivers was not aware of the details Friday night but believed he was departing, putting him and Oubre in an uncomfortable spot.

"It's kind of unreal in a way," Beal said. "You don't see that a lot. I kind of feel for Kelly and Austin to be put in that trick bag in a way of not knowing. ... I think they handled it well, like professionals. I think anybody else would have been a little more frustrated."

Despite having three max-contract players in Wall, Beal and Otto Porter, the Wizards are off to a disappointing 11-18 start amid chemistry questions and have lost four in a row. They host LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday.

Memphis general manager Chris Wallace said Saturday he was very disappointed someone with either Washington or Phoenix or both teams leaked the trade while the Grizzlies were playing Miami on Friday night. Wallace made it very clear that Dillon Brooks, in his second season since the 45th overall pick in the 2017 NBA draft was traded to the Grizzlies, was never part of any discussions for this deal, and the team thought it was trading MarShon Brooks.

Red Sox to pay steep $12M in luxury tax

NEW YORK (AP)—Boston should be happy to pay this tax bill.

The World Series champion Red Sox owe $11,951,091 in luxury tax for having baseball's top payroll, according to final calculations by the commissioner's office obtained by The Associated Press. The only other team that owes is the Washington Nationals, who must pay $2,386,097, their second straight year with a bill.

Because Boston was more than $40 million over the tax threshold, it became the first team to incur a new penalty put in place for the 2018 season: the top Red Sox selection in next June's amateur draft will be dropped 10 places. Boston's top pick had been projected to be No. 33 overall before the penalty.

Boston has owed tax in the years of three of its four titles this century, paying $3,148,962 in 2004 and $6,064,287 in 2007. The Red Sox stayed under the tax threshold when they won in 2013. The only other championship teams to owe since the tax began in 2003 were the 2009 New York Yankees at $25.7 million and the 2016 Chicago Cubs, at $2.96 million



AP

Boston Red Sox manager Alex Cora holds the championship trophy after Game 5 of baseball's World Series against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sunday, Oct. 28, 2018, in Los Angeles. The Red Sox won, 5-1, to top the series 4-1.

This year's initial tax threshold was $197 million, counting payrolls by average annual values and including earned bonuses, adjustments for cash transactions and option buyouts and just over $14 million per team in benefits. Boston's payroll for the tax was $239.5 million, exceeding the $237 million threshold that triggered the draft penalty. Washington's was $205 million.

Boston boosted its payroll during spring training when it added slugger J.D. Martinez, who counted at $23.75 million on the tax payroll and then earned $700,000 in bonuses while leading the major leagues with 130 RBIs.

Ahead of the July 31 trade deadline, the Red Sox acquired World Series MVP Steve Pearce, who added $3,208,602 to the payroll, including a $50,000 Series MVP bonus; pitcher Nathan Eovaldi, who added $720,430 and became a key component to the title run with a pair of postseason wins and a six-inning relief outing in World Series Game 3 against the Los Angeles Dodgers; and second baseman Ian Kinsler, who added $3,766,666.

San Francisco had the third-highest payroll at $195.7 million followed by the Dodgers at $195 million—up from $182 million on opening day, The Dodgers had paid tax in each of the previous five seasons, a total of $149.6 million.

The Cubs were fifth at $193.3 million, and the Yankees sixth at $192.98 million— the first time the Yankees finished under the threshold after 15 consecutive years over that resulted in taxes totaling $341.1 million.

By dropping under the threshold, the Yankees and Dodgers reset their tax rates for 2019 and put themselves in better position to pursue a talented free-agent class that includes Bryce Harper and Manny Machado.

Boston has owed in nine of 16 seasons, a total of $37.1 million. The Red Sox paid in 2015 and '16, then dropped under the threshold by just over $3 million in 2017, resetting their tax rates to the lowest level this year. Boston paid at a 28.1 percent effective rate.

Washington is paying for the second straight season, raising its total to $3.8 million.

Only eight teams have gone over the tax threshold: Detroit paid $9 million over three seasons, San Francisco $8.9 million over three seasons and the Los Angeles Angels $927,000 in 2003.

Next year's tax starts at $206 million, and Boston's rates will rise from 20 percent to 30 percent on the first $20 million over, 32 percent to 42 percent on the next $20 million and 62.5 percent to 75 percent on any amount over $246 million.

Red Sox president of baseball operations Dave Dombrowski predicted Boston against will exceed all three thresholds next year.

Washington's rate rises to 50 percent on the first $20 million over, 62 percent on the next $20 million and 95 percent on any amount over $246 million.

White Sox acquire Alonso in trade with Indians

CHICAGO (AP) — First baseman Yonder Alonso was traded to the Chicago White Sox by the Cleveland Indians on Friday in a deal between AL Central rivals that could have broad implications for both teams the rest of the offseason.

A person familiar with the trade confirmed it on condition of anonymity because the clubs had not yet announced the swap. Stadium first reported Alonso was headed to the White Sox.

Chicago sent minor league outfielder Alex Call to Cleveland for Alonso, who hit .250 with 23 homers and 83 RBIs in 145 games this year during his only season with the Indians.

Cleveland reacquired first baseman and designated hitter Carlos Santana from Philadelphia in a three-team trade on Thursday, making Alonso expendable. The White Sox deal moves Alonso's $8 million salary for 2019 off the Indians' payroll, giving them more flexibility if they want to keep their deep rotation intact.

Chicago already has Jose Abreu at first base, but he played in just 128 games last season due to injuries and could see more time at DH with the addition of Alonso. The 31-year-old Alonso also is married to the sister of star slugger Manny Machado, a rumored target for the White Sox in free agency.

Alonso was selected by Cincinnati in the first round of the 2008 amateur draft and broke into the majors with the Reds in 2010. He is a .265 hitter with 90 homers and 389 RBIs in 951 games with Cincinnati, San Diego, Oakland, Seattle and Cleveland.

Alonso's contract includes a 2020 club option at $9 million with a $1 million buyout. The option becomes guaranteed if Alonso has 550 plate appearances next year or 1,100 in 2018 and '19 combined, and he passes a physical at the end of next season.

The 24-year-old Call played for Class A Winston-Salem and Double-A Birmingham last season, batting .248 with 12 homers and 58 RBIs in 123 games. He was selected by Chicago in the third round of the 2016 draft out of Ball State University.

Nats have agreement with Adams

In Washington, free agent first baseman Matt Adams has an agreement to return to the Washington Nationals, pending a successful physical exam.

A person familiar with the deal confirmed to The Associated Press that Adams and the Nationals agreed to a $4 million, one-year contract with a mutual option for 2020. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the club had not made an announcement.

Adams was traded by Washington to St. Louis in August for $50,000. He hit .158 with three home runs and nine RBIs in 27 games with the Cardinals.

The 30-year-old Adams is expected to split time at first base again with Ryan Zimmerman. The agreement was first reported by the Athletic.

Getting Adams is the latest move this offseason for Washington, which signed left-handed starter Patrick Corbin and catcher Kurt Suzuki, traded for catcher Yan Gomes and is waiting to see what happens with star outfielder Bryce Harper.

Kelly, Dodgers agree to $25M, 3-year deal

In Los Angeles, reliever Joe Kelly agreed Thursday to a $25 million, three-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal had not yet been announced.

A 30-year-old right-hander who was born in Anaheim, California, Kelly was 4-2 with a 4.39 ERA and two saves in 73 games this year for the World Series champion Boston Red Sox. Kelly pitched in all five World Series games against the Dodgers this year and did not allow a run, striking out 10 in six innings. He gave up one earned run in nine postseason appearances with 13 strikeouts and no walks.

Kelly broke a rib of the Dodgers' Hanley Ramirez when he hit him with a pitch in the 2013 NL Championship Series opener. Kelly hit the New York Yankees' Tyler Austin on the back with a pitch last April 11, four innings after Austin spiked Red Sox shortstop Brock Holt when he slid into second base with a high right foot. That set off a brawl and Kelly was suspended for six games.

Bour, Angels finalize $2.5M contract

In Anaheim, first baseman Justin Bour and the Angels have finalized a $2.5 million, one-year contract, giving Los Angeles depth while Albert Pujols recovers from surgery.

Bour can earn an additional $500,000 in performance bonuses based on plate appearances under the deal announced Saturday: $125,000 each for 350, 400, 450 and 500.

The 30-year-old hit 20 homers and drove in 59 runs with the Marlins and Phillies last season. He played 112 of his 141 games with Miami before an August trade to Philadelphia.

No clear favorites in Champions League



AP
Juventus's Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball during the Italian Serie A soccer match against Torino FC at the Olimpico stadium in Turin, Italy, Saturday, Dec. 15, 2018.

LONDON—We live in disquieting times. The old global powers are in disarray. Uncertainty abounds. It all just feels unsettled.

Just to be clear, this is in reference to soccer.

The group stage of the UEFA Champions League ended last week. And on paper, it looks like it's all transpired just about as you'd expect. All of the big clubs advanced. Also: Manchester United—barely.

But look more closely and a curious picture emerges. For the first time in eons, we look ahead to Monday's round-of-16 draw—to be played starting Feb. 12—without any major favorites seizing the narrative. Almost halfway into the club season, this doesn't look like this will clearly be anybody's year.

This continental campaign remains wide-open.

And that's fairly uncommon. By this point, there are usually two or three teams who have announced themselves as clear frontrunners. Because the oligarchy of Europe's superclubs is such that interlopers in the semifinal stages are rare. And the last time a non-megaclub lifted the big cup was back in 2004, when Jose Mourinho's FC Porto caught everyone by surprise. Before that, it was Ajax in 1995—which, in fact, was still a juggernaut back then.

Indeed, last year, it was surprising that Roma made it to the semis. And Roma was the 24th-richest club in the world, per the Deloitte Football Money League. The gap between the super-rich and everybody else is bigger than ever.

But scan the rosters and resumes of the pre-season contenders, and issues abound.

After Real Madrid's four European titles in five years, unprecedented in the modern era and matched only by the 1956-60 Real run, the dynasty is now surely over. The club didn't adequately replace Cristiano Ronaldo, or really replace him at all. And it still hasn't addressed the inexorable aging of its golden core. Five La Liga losses probably doom a domestic title challenge and an early managerial change didn't produce much of an upgrade in the inexperienced Santiago Solari. What's more, Real somehow managed to lose twice to last-place CSKA Moscow in the group stage – the last of which was a hapless 3-0 hammering, which wasn't excused by the B-team run out.

FC Barcelona has finally solved some of its depth issues and cruised through a difficult group without a loss. But then there are also signs that things aren't coming quite so easily as they once did, as the peerless Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez age and require more rest.

Barca's total expected goals at this point of the season is far lower than it's been in years—as is Real's.

And after Barca managed to go a full four league games without a win, the Spanish title race promises to be closer than expected with Sevilla and Atletico Madrid right on Barca's heels, a mere two points back. That won't help Barca in Europe, where it's come up short every year since 2015.

Atletico, meanwhile, the losing finalist in 2014 and 2016 and now very much a superclub in its own right, seems to have the credentials to make another run at the final. But then it took a disconcerting 4-0 beating at the hands of Borussia Dortmund in the group stage. And the Colchoneros' tepid league form—only seven wins from 15 games—suggests an inability to score enough goals in the moments that matter.

Bayern Munich is in much the same boat as Real. It allowed too much of its team to get too old before rejuvenating and has, by its own dizzying standards, fallen off a bit of a cliff. It now sits fully nine points behind leaders Dortmund in the Bundesliga. While Bayern won its group, it had immense difficulty earning a pair of ties with Ajax, which may be young and exciting, but shouldn't really trouble the German juggernauts.

Then there's Paris Saint-Germain, which remains all-in on winning in Europe following half a decade of dominance in France. But PSG lost its group stage opener to Liverpool and won just one of its first four games, setting off all sorts of alarm bells in the French capital. Thomas Tuchel's team pulled it out in the end, even winning the group, but the evidence of its early form is hardly convincing.

So on to last year's runners-up, Liverpool. The Reds managed to lose all three of their away games at Napoli, Red Star Belgrade and PSG. That's not a good omen before the knockout stages, where math dictates the impossibility of advancing very far without solid away results. What's more, Liverpool is locked into a titanic Premier League title race with Manchester City that will likely go the length of the season and drain all kinds of energy.

City, then, is in the same boat. Its group stage wound up being fairly comfortable, in spite of an opening loss at home to Olympique Lyon and a few late-won results. And while City has uncommon—and perhaps unprecedented—depth, there's a reason no teams from the glittering Premier League have won the Champions League in six years. And that only three reached the semis in the last five seasons. It's hard to compete on both fronts when your domestic league is so grueling, offering nary an easy game. And that soaring title race sure doesn't help.

TANHOLDINGS

From Page 28

Canape said.

Arago, on behalf of TanHoldings FC, thanked Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club for its donation and support, not only to sports groups, but also to other members of the community.

"We are very grateful to Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club for their generosity and support to our club. The donation is very timely, as we will be sending a team to Guam for a tournament this week," Arago said.

TanHoldings FC will have its U15 squad playing in the Guam U15 Girls Friendlies that is scheduled from Dec. 20 to 23. Liz Phan will coach the team, which has Judy Ann Andebor, Allysya Mae Angeles, Emalyn and Mary Joy Aniana, Christine Mae and Clair Eliesa Barrozo, Jenny Ann and Julie Ann Capayas, Marinel Falalimpa, Stephanie Flores, Sydney Camille Hinds, Tyana Kristine Hix, Lovely Joey Loyola, and Rizza Relucio as members.

CNMI

From Page 28

Bilis, Japan's Katsumi Nakamura (46.24), compatriot Blake Pieroni (46.31), and France's Mehdy Metella (46.53).

Pending results of last night's finals races, the U.S. leads in the medal standings in swimming with its 11 golds, 12 silvers, and four bronzes. Russia has a 5-3-3 tally for second place, while third-ranked Hungary has 4-1-0. Host China and the Netherland's are in the Top 5 with 3-4-5 and 2-4-2, respectively.

Meanwhile, after completing their participation in the world championship, Suzuki, Batallones, and Jinju Thompson, who finished her two events (100m and 200m freestyle) last Wednesday, are scheduled to return to Saipan tomorrow morning.

GUAM

From Page 28

For the purple belt absolute division, Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez leads the cast and will be up against Rey Kim, Vince "The Clinch" Masga, and Ken Tanzawa. Completing the initial lift of fighters for Art of War 13 (Gi category) are white belt absolute's Kier Agda, Jose Quan, Danny Feitner, and Jasper Van Der Maas.

Van Der Maas will also compete in the No Gi middleweight class (166 to 185 lbs) and will face Guam's Nick Brown and J.J. Abrose and Kim, Tanzawa, Masga, and Quan. Van Der Maas will try his luck, too in the light heavyweight (186 to 200 lbs) and he will square off against Cannon, Agda, and Masga.

In the heavyweight class (201 lbs and up), Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial is on the list of contenders along with Cannon, Agda, and Guam's John Aguon Jr. In the lightweight (100 to 145 lbs), only three fighters—Taitingfong, Santos, and Pilling Terlaje—have registered so far, while the welterweight division (146 to 165 lbs) is loaded with Shane on top of the lineup. Sangalang, Nuique, Okiyama, Taitingfong, and Tanzawa have also signed up in the welterweight category.

Meanwhile, Cuki Alvarez said registration is still open. Tournament fee is only $20 and to sign up, call Alvarez at 783-4662.



Browns beat Broncos, keep slim playoff hopes alive

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune
Sports



KAN PACIFIC POOL CLOSED

CNMI swimmers complete races

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Team CNMI wrapped up its campaign in the 14th FINA World Championships last Saturday with Nelson Batallones and Lennosuke swimming in the squad's last two events at the Hangzhou Olympic and International Expo Center in China.

Batallones had the penultimate appearance for the Commonwealth in the 25-meter meet, as he raced in one of the qualifying events for the 50m butterfly swim last Friday morning. He was on Heat 4 and clocked in at 29.58 seconds to beat Laos's Slava Sihanouvong (29.99) in their group, which had Palestine's Nabeel Hatoum (26.10) as top finisher.

The Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan also had a better time against Niger's Albachir Mouctar (29.88 seconds), Turks and Caicos Islands' Jack Parlee (30.21), Benin's Jefferson Kpanou (30.79), Sierra Leon's Joshua Whyse (31.59), the Marshal Islands' Daniel Ranis (31.73), Malawi's Iana Salaka (32.62), Vanuatu's Jessy Misak (33.19), and Yemen's Hassan Tareq-Hassan Baidar (34.20). Brazil's Nicholas Santos posted the fastest time in the qualifiers with his 22.41 seconds and also marched into the gold medal race after a field-best 21.96 seconds in the semifinals last Saturday evening. Santos was joined in the finals by Germany's Marius Kusch (22.44 seconds), Japan's Takaya Yasue (22.52) and Takeshi Kawamoto (22.74), South Africa's Ryan Coetzee (22.75) and Cha LeClos (22.34), Russia's Mikhail Vekovishchev (22.56), and Trinidad and Tobago's Dylan Carter.

In other results, Suzuki closed out for the CNMI when he competed on Heat 3 of the 100m freestyle event last Saturday. He finished sixth in his group after checking in at 56.91 seconds and defeating Sint Maarten's Vadym Semkiv (59.53 seconds), the Solomon Islands' Clifton Daromani, Guinea's Mamadou Tahirou Bah (1:07.56), and the Marshall Islands' Phillip Kinono (disqualified).

The Seychelles' Dean Hoffman (51.58 seconds) ruled Heat 3, while American Caeleb Dressel topped the qualifiers with his 45.98 seconds. The U.S. swimmer then finished second to LeClos (45.89 second) in the semis to make it to the gold medal race (scheduled to last night), together with Russia's Vladislav Grinev and Vladimir Morozov (45.93), Lituania's Simonas

See CNMI on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Nelson Batallones, seen here competing in Guam, completed his appearance in the 14th FINA World Championships last Friday after racing in the 50m butterfly event at the Hangzhou Olympic and International Expo Center in China.

Guam fighters sign up for Art of War 13

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Guam fighters are coming over to compete in the Art of War 13: Grappling and Submission Challenge set for Dec. 29 at the Trench Tech Gym in Garapan.

Leading the visiting crew is returnee Kenji Okiyama, who is entered in the brown belt absolute (Gi) and will be joined by Trench Tech founder himself Cuki Alvarez and Mark Smith.

In the blue belt absolute, Guam's Phoenix Cannon will be tested against Saipan's Paulo Sangalang, Giovanni Taitingfong, Franklin Santos, Mark Nuique, and Jeff Garcia.

See GUAM on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Guam's Kenji Okiyama, top, will return to Saipan later this month to compete in Trench Tech's Art of War 13.

TanHoldings FC receives donation from Lions Club

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's indeed the season of giving, as Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club handed out $1,500 to TanHoldings Football Club last week in support of the latter's soccer program.

Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club officials, led by its president Flor Miranda, turned over its donation to TanHoldings FC president Eli Arago last Thursday. The donation, according to Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club secretary Ladyvir Canape, was part of the proceeds from their 5K walkathon held last October. A portion of the proceeds was also given to Rota for the victims of Typhoon Mangkhut.

"As promised during our walkathon, we are donating half of its proceeds to the football club. There was a bit of a delay in the turnover of the donation because of the typhoons and the activities of our association. We wish the football club good luck and may they continue working with the our youth and promote health and wellness through sports,"

See TANHOLDINGS on Page 27



JON PEREZ
TanHoldings FC president Eli Arago, fourth left, receives a copy of the check donation from Saipan Filipino-American Lions Club officials during a turnover ceremony last Thursday at the JP Center Building in Garapan.